

The *intercom*

In Church and Community



From the Pastor Just Wait...



I'm not very patient, but do you know who is *terrible* at waiting? My eight-month-old baby, Susanna.

The moment she decides she wants something is the moment she needs to

have it. Every moment of waiting is excruciating for her, and for us. Her mood can change from sweet smiles to a pout to a whimper to a wail in seconds! We adults learn not to behave this way when we have to wait, but I don't think we ever really shake this penchant for impatience.

I don't know anyone who likes waiting, especially not when they have the choice. Some are better at it than others, they are more patient, but who would revel in waiting? We'll use any means necessary to avoid waiting; we're constantly innovating new ways to avoid the wait. At the airport there's TSA PreCheck and upgrades to shorten the wait, in the grocery store there's self checkout, there's fast food and Door Dash, there's the Fast Pass at Disney. And when waiting is inevitable, what we actually do can hardly be called waiting. Instead, we tend to distract ourselves to help pass the time.

Things weren't so different for the folks we read about in the Bible. They didn't much like



Advent and Christmas at Our Savior's

Here are some scheduling notes for the next several weeks:

- ♦ December 1 – First Sunday in Advent
- ♦ December 4 – Advent Fair
- ♦ December 11 and 18 – Advent worship services, 6:40 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.

waiting either. Abraham took matters into his own hands when he grew impatient for the child he was promised. Leaving his wife in the dust, thinking he could expedite God's plan, he had a baby with his wife's servant instead. We find another example in the Israelites who couldn't wait for Moses to descend from the mountain, so they made their own gods with Aaron's help. Yet again, Jesus' disciples couldn't stay awake while he prayed. And after his three days in the

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grave, they gave up on believing he was who he said he was and retreated into fear instead.

Waiting is hard. It's countercultural. It seems wasteful. But in the scriptures, waiting is also holy. Because, after years of waiting, Abraham and Sarah did have their baby, even in their old age. After 40 years in the wilderness, the Israelites were delivered into the promised land. And after three days dead in the grave, Jesus overcame death and the grave in his resurrection.

This Advent, this month of December leading up to Christmas, we're inviting you to willingly enter into this practice of holy waiting.

Perhaps with or without this invitation to wait, you are in a season marked by waiting—waiting for the results, waiting for what is next, waiting in hopeful anticipation, or waiting with dread.

Or maybe, for you, there is no time to wait. Everything is happening now and every moment without a purpose sets you further behind and leaves you scrambling to make up for the wasted time.

I hope you will accept this invitation to reframe waiting as something that is purposeful, holy, and even good.

I know that you could come up with some creative ideas about how to practice waiting.

You might choose to discipline yourself to leave your phone out of reach while you wait. Maybe you would consider taking up a practice of looking and noticing instead. For example, I often find myself pulling out my phone while I wait in the checkout line at the grocery store. Maybe you do too. Instead, I want to challenge myself to notice the people in front of me and behind me, in the next line over, the employees behind the register or who are bagging my food, those in line at customer service and the floral department. How does it look like they feel? Are they in a rush? Are they going to or from work?

This noticing might prompt us to respond, too. Most times, I suspect a silent prayer for those around us will be enough. But with others I could imagine perhaps saying hello to start a brief conversation based on something I observe, offering a hand, or even simply a smile.

With the bigger stuff, when you are in seasons of waiting, I wonder how you could redeem that season for good and make it holy. Perhaps you might journal your experiences and your prayers so that you can look back later and be amazed at how some of them were even answered.

As we enter this season of Advent, I hope you will accept this invitation to *Just Wait...*

—Pr. Sami Johnson

Memorials and Honoraria October–November 2019

In Memory of Harriet Bresee

Don and Coryll Weeg

In Memory of Stella Curry

Milt and Marge Hanson

Tom and Karla Hellman

In Memory of Charles Dawdy

Arlen Viste

In Memory of Doretta Helgersen

Mary Birkeland

Diane Cramer

Shon Cronk

Jodi Gross

Shirly Hillgren

Gayle Hooper

Myrna Hotchkiss

Janice Iwen

Lloyd and Donna Knutson

Michael McConnell

Dale and Janet Sample

Glenn and Cynthia Wika

In Memory of Charles Kinnunen

John and Patricia Vasgaard

In Memory of Beverly Miller

Arlen Viste

Glenn and Cynthia Wika

In Memory of Don Pearson

Don and Sarah Abbas

Mario and Delores Candia

Frances Kilen

Joan Nelsen

Curt and Shirley Schafer

In Memory of Ed Sessler

Linda Becker

John and Enid Kinkead

Bill and Judy McLean

Greg and Janet Schmieding

Have Something to Eat!

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 December menus (subject to change):

Sunday Breakfasts

1 – Bacon, scrambled eggs, roasted potatoes, yogurt, orange juice, donut holes

8 – Egg bake, donut holes, yogurt, orange juice

15 – Bacon, scrambled eggs, roasted potatoes, yogurt, orange juice, donut holes

22 – Cheese Omelets, Sausage Patties, Potatoes, Yogurt, Orange Juice, Donut Holes

29 – No breakfast

Wednesday Suppers

4 – Advent Fair: roast beef, mashed potatoes, green beans, dinner bun and butter, light dessert

11 – Burrito bowls, queso and chips, tossed salad, dessert

18 – Lasagna, tossed salad, bread sticks, dessert

25 – No supper—Merry Christmas!

Baptisms

November 3, 2019

Lydia Vera Stearns, whose parents are Brad and Megan Stearns.

Alden Raymond Pearson, whose parents are Drew and Celina Pearson.

Telecasts

October 27, 2019

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

Church on the Street

It started early on Saturday with canned tomatoes, noodles, and freshly baked bread. Our cook, Debbie, worked with volunteers to prepare goulash for 200 people. Once the food was loaded into roasters, another tiny team swung by OSL to pick up the roasters and other food—several hundred pounds of food, in total—and caravan to the Sioux Falls Ministry Center downtown.

There, at the Ministry Center, almost 200 had gathered. This was Church on the Street. The folks who gathered there were all sorts: some church volunteers—both from OSL and elsewhere. Some volunteers and leaders from Church on the Street, including Rebel Hurd, the minister to Church on the Street. And those Rebel calls her “Church on the Streeters,” many of whom have no place to live. It is a mix of old and young, including several women with little children.

Once the food arrived, we transferred the food into the kitchen. We carried heavy roasters through snow flurries. It was only October, but it was already snowing.

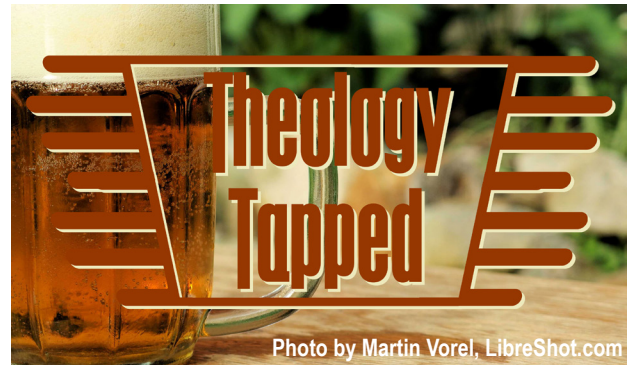
For many folks from OSL, it was the first day we turned on our furnaces in earnest. Complained as we walked the dog in the morning, or scraped the frost from our windshields.

For many of the Church on the Streeters, though, it was the first of many nights this year that they passed sleeplessly, hiding from the cold, because they had no house; no car with heated seats; no warm, dry bed.

That morning we had worship. I preached on the prophet Jeremiah's words to the Israelite exiles. OSL folks sat with, and sang with, Church on the Street regulars. We prayed and shared Holy Communion.

Outside it still snowed. Inside, for just a moment, there was warmth. Peace. Hot goulash with freshly baked buns. Coffee and cream and birthday cake and long conversation in a room where everyone belonged around the table.

—Pr. Justin Kosec



Theology Tapped

Because of Thanksgiving, November's Theology Tapped was moved to December... Thursday, December 5, to be exact, from 8:00 to 9:30 P.M. at Monk's House of Ale Repute, 420 E. 8th St.

And because of the Christmas holiday, there will be no Theology Tapped on the fourth Thursday this month.

So if you're looking for engaging conversation on matters of faith and life in a fun, informal setting, join Pr. Randy on December 5 for the, um, November Theology Tapped. And everything will be back on track in January!

Give a Good Gift!

ELCA Good Gifts is your opportunity to provide critical support to the ministries and programs that mean the most to you and the people you love. It's just one way you can share God's love with others in 77 countries around the world!

There will be a Good Gifts Information Table in The Gathering Place West on Sundays in Advent—stop by to learn how you may give a gift of chicks, a rooster, a goat, a piglet, a cow, a fish farm, honeybees, and much more to help individuals and communities around the world. Visit <https://goodgifts.elca.org> to learn more.



OSL
ADVENT
FAIR
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DECEMBER 4  
5:30-7:00 P.M.  
*Lower Level  
With Meal  
Starting at  
5:00 p.m. in  
The Gathering Place*  
CHILDREN  
GRADE FIVE &  
UNDER MUST BE  
ACCOMPANIED BY A  
PARENT OR  
CARING ADULT.



## “Improvisation on a Theme for Reformation”

OSL Sunday and Wednesday School students and their parents had an extraordinary opportunity to learn about music in the Protestant Reformation—specifically, Martin Luther’s influence on music in the church, and the ways that the pipe organ has carried Luther’s music to worship at Our Savior’s today.

On October 20 and 23, OSL Principal Organist Matthew Tylutki led kids and their parents through two stations. The first station was in the Sanctuary balcony, where students undertook a



scavenger hunt for information about Luther’s musical legacy. As they were guided through Our Savior’s pipe organ, seeing the inner workings of the large and complex instrument, students also searched for knowledge about Luther’s musical training and compositions, and the Reformation’s effect on music in the church. Kids and parents alike were amazed to explore the mechanics of the instrument, with over 2,000 individual pipes, from a new perspective. After investigating the organ, students received cards with a small range of musical notes, to create their own simple compositions. These compositions later served as the backbone for music played on the organ in worship on Reformation Sunday, “Improvisation on a Theme for Reformation,” carrying on the Luther’s compositional tradition, which students learned about on their scavenger hunt. OSL Communica-

tions Director Bill Reynolds created a video featuring the composition; you’ll find it at <http://bit.ly/osl-improvisation>.

Their second station was downstairs, with the Orgelkids kit organ. This little instrument is part of a project that began in the Netherlands, and has recently come to South Dakota through an instrument commissioned by the local chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Its goal is to help teach younger generations about the pipe organ through hands-on experience. Local organ builder John Nordlie crafted the little instrument (24 keys and 48 pipes), which is powered by two hand pumps. Kids learned about the inner workings of the pipe organ as they helped construct the kit organ, after which everyone also had a chance to show off their musical skills playing the little organ.

It was remarkable to see students’ excitement as they were welcomed into a space normally reserved for organ technicians and the occasional organist, to learn more about their own church. Several parents even commented that in their time at Our Savior’s they had never seen or experienced the pipe organ from this perspective. This exploratory, hands-on, Reformation-themed event was a great success, and highlighted, for our youngest members, one of the many amazing ministry areas that Our Savior’s has to offer them.

If you think the Orgelkids organ is something you’d like to include in your programming, here at Our Savior’s or elsewhere, Matthew Tylutki is the Orgelkids Team Leader for the South Dakota American Guild of Organists, and he would be happy to help schedule a presentation: 336-2942, ext. 31, or [mtylutki@oslchurch.com](mailto:mtylutki@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, December 4, 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](mailto:mianderson@oslchurch.com).

### Knitting/Crocheting Ministry

Learn how to knit or crochet prayer shawls (to be given to people to remind them of God’s presence and love in their lives) and mittens and scarves (for missions). Wednesday, December 11, 9:30 A.M., Sunshine Room.

### Recent Loss Group

The winter series will meet through December 4, from 5:30 to 6:30 P.M., in the Chapel. Contact Michelle Anderson, [mianderson@oslchurch.com](mailto:mianderson@oslchurch.com) or 336-2942, ext. 28, to preregister. Recent Loss attendees are welcome to partake in OSL Community Supper, 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., in the 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.



## The Tradition Continues!

Join Friendship Club for a traditional Christmas celebration, enjoying the sights and sounds of the Old Country Store at Nora, South Dakota!

For the past several years, OSL's Friendship Club has traveled to Nora to enjoy the old-time country sights and sounds of Christmas. A traditional

long ago; and enjoying cider, coffee, and treats around the wood-burning stove. Holiday and antique decorations fill the room as friends gather to celebrate this

holiday tradition together.

Come join this fun group, which will travel via coach on December 17, after having first enjoyed a delightful Christmas lunch

at OSL, starting at 12:00 P.M. (Note that this is not the usual Friendship Club time.) The coach will leave for Nora at 1:00, and return to OSL around 4:00 or 4:30. Cost for transportation is

\$15 per person; lunch will be a freewill offering, as usual.

Reserve your spot at the Information Center, or call the Church Office, 336-2942. Contact Pr. Tim, [tlemme@oslchurch.com](mailto:tlemme@oslchurch.com) or 336-2942, ext. 19, for more information.



holiday favorite of many, the Nora Store hosts a variety of Christmas traditions—singing holiday favorites around a beautifully restored vintage pipe organ; sharing stories from Christmases



## Remembering Those in Prison

OSL's Women of Faith Circle got together on November 13 to mix fudge packets. The packets were then made available to anyone who wanted to make fudge to be included in Christmas bags for South Dakota State Penitentiary inmates.





## Nine Years of Creative Ministry

Since the completion of OSL's building project in 2010, Woodshop Ministry has continued to grow and be a blessing to our congregation. What began as a dream, and an empty room downstairs, is now a vital part of the day-to-day ministry of Our Savior's.

The dream began when a core group of Men in Mission members, led by Jim Dedrickson and Jim Ryan, grabbed their paintbrushes and painted the dark gray walls of this new workshop space. Then, when the room was clean and ready, key pieces



of equipment began to arrive. Bob Eng donated two SawStop table saws to this new ministry, along with a band saw and dust-collection units.

Next, Marlo Schultz donated a jointing machine, router table, and several other pieces of equipment. Jason Kahler, who worked at a local wood-supply company, began to bring in building products and constructed worktables and storage units to complement our workspace. As more and more members of the congregation began to join the woodworking team, they too contributed equipment and supplies to help this



new ministry grow, and before long, our woodshop was off and running.

Our first project, which continues to this day, was to build Faith Chests to give to newly baptized children. The woodshop team builds 50 to 60 of these Faith Chests each year. Many other projects have come out of our shop, benefiting

our congregation, its members, and many organizations and individuals outside of our walls. Come check out some of the completed projects on the bulletin board in the woodshop (next to our coffee pot!).

Recently, we have begun a new area of created craftsmanship with the addition of a beautiful wood lathe, donated by Jim Ryan. Our team has been having a great time getting familiar with this new machine. Watch for crafts coming forth as we "turn out" new creations each week!

As always, our heartfelt thanks goes to our team of woodworkers as they continue to bless our congregation with their creative gifts, and thank you to the congregation for the wonderful ways you support this special ministry!

We are always looking for new folks to join our team! Whether you are a seasoned woodworker or are just getting started in the craft, we encourage you to join! We have a great time together each week, working on projects and enjoying a time of fun and fellowship.

Contact me if you have any questions about the OSL Woodshop Ministry, and how you too can be a part of this creative ministry experience: 336-2942, ext. 19, or [tlemme@oslchurch.com](mailto:tlemme@oslchurch.com).

—Pr. Tim Lemme

## Pondering... by Joan Bacon

I am a life-long Protestant, but something I share with Catholics is an affinity for Mary. One of the reasons I am drawn to Mary is because she pondered things (Luke 2:19). I, too, am a ponderer. Granted, Mary had bigger things to ponder than I have, given her Child's divine conception,



# stephen MINISTRY

angels, and wise men! Still, I identify with the pondering part of her nature.

To ponder means to think carefully about something, to mull over, weigh, wrestle with; to consider quietly and deeply, especially before making a decision or reaching a conclusion. When I was first invited to be a Stephen Minister, I did not say yes right away. I had just retired, and friends cautioned me not to say yes to everything that came along. But the main reason I hesitated was that I needed time to ponder the idea.

unusual birth experience, and the subsequent appearance of shepherds, angels,

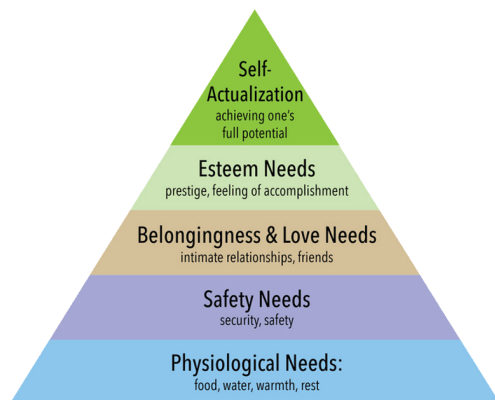
As I pondered away, I felt God's Holy Nudge to say yes. That decision has helped me serve others in very meaningful ways, grow in my faith, and develop new friendships.

If you have been pondering Stephen Ministry and feel God's Holy Nudge to find out more, contact Pr. Tim ([tlemme@oslchurch.com](mailto:tlemme@oslchurch.com) or 336-2942, ext. 19) or Deb Harlan ([deharlan@oslchurch.com](mailto:deharlan@oslchurch.com) or 336-2942, ext. 48) right away! The next Stephen Ministry class series begins on Tuesday, January 7, from 6:00 to 8:30 P.M., and continues each Tuesday evening (plus one Saturday) through March. Classes cover important ministry topics and relationship/communication skills that are useful to everyone and essential to becoming a Stephen Minister.

If you missed the Stephen Ministry videos that were shown in worship services in November, or you would like to view them again, you'll find them on the OSL website: [oslchurch.com/videos](http://oslchurch.com/videos).

## CHORUSpondence from Gene LeVasseur

In 1943, a psychologist named Abraham Maslow gave us a pyramid. Actually, it was a “Hierarchy of Needs,” illustrated by a multi-level triangle. Maslow was trying to show the layers of human needs and motivation. It goes like this:



The needs toward the bottom are about basic survival and safety, things like food, water, and not getting eaten by a bear. The middle needs are psychological, like relationships and the feeling of accomplishment. At the top is something Maslow called self-actualization, a term for achieving one's full potential. One of the things that this Hierarchy of Needs teaches us is that people don't typically search out the higher needs unless they've met the lower ones. In other words, you're not going to worry about your self-esteem when you're starving.

As I pondered this process, I thought about how this might relate to our faith journey. So here are my thoughts on our faith's Hierarchy of Needs, starting from the bottom of the pyramid:

**Survival.** As we enter into our faith, we are trying to find a Savior from our sin and the evil in this world. We come to worship needing food (God's Word), water (baptism), and warmth and rest (awareness of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) to comfort us.

**Connection.** When we feel secure and safe—we find a church where people feel unified in their beliefs and comfortable worshipping together—we begin to interact with people and, most important, connect with God.

**Expression.** The development of blessed assurance and biblical literacy. This is when we feel intimate, agape love for God and our neighbor, everyone. We realize that we are saved by God's grace—our faith—and that we are saved for works. We find ways to serve with our time, talent, and treasure.

**Engagement.** This level made me pause. Maslow's Esteem level is a risky one, in my opinion. There is a healthy awareness of self-esteem, knowing that God loves us so much that he redeemed us. There is also an unhealthy awareness of self-esteem, thinking, “I'm saved because of my faith,” therefore I can be self-absorbed in my way of life. I find that when I work at noticing other's good works and building up others authentically that I am a bit more humble. I realize that I am still a sinner and fall short of God's commandments.

**Guidance.** I am the eldest of five siblings and was often responsible for my brothers and sisters as children. My first profession was a public-school teacher for 25 years. I'm a father of three and have two grandchildren. Caring for and guiding young people is an absolute joy, and everyone who's experienced this will tell you that they learn as much or more from their children as they teach them. This is the level where we realize that we are all ministers and pass on our faith by example and sharing the gospel.

There's so much reward and fulfillment in becoming a “guide,” and when leaders and team members move to this level and begin to make an intentional investment in others, the Kingdom will advance and more glory will be given to the One we worship.

How can I move up the triangle past the survival stage? Right now, we have many opportunities to serve in worship ministry. I guarantee that if you connect with any of these teams you will deepen your faith through expression, engagement, and, ultimately, guidance. As I think about the hundreds of people at OSL that serve on ministry teams, I am inspired by their love of God and people. There is an absolute joy that I can see and feel from their spirit, and I thank God for that. May God bless you and your family!

“SING” cereley,  
Gene

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## Guided by the Holy Spirit by Jodie Nielsen

As I write this last *Intercom* article as OSL's WELCA president, I can't help but think of the people who have guided me on this journey and thank them for the support and kind words they have given me. My takeaway is that this is

*Eve*. The cost of the program and lunch is \$9. Tickets are on sale at the Church Office during the week.

**Board Position Openings.** We have two WELCA Board positions opening in January, vice president and treasurer. If you are interested in becoming involved in a group that contributes to our community in many ways, please consider joining a WELCA group or becoming a board member. This is a great way to meet people and become involved in your congregation!

**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.

**Unit Wide Mission Project 2020: Just Love.** We have taken the initial steps in our new relationship with Susan B. Anthony, an elementary school near OSL. This will be a long-term relationship of financial support and having a presence in the school. We are still working out

the details and will share with you when they are known.

**December Devotional** is "Watch, Wait, Create" by Vonda Drees, a creative Advent devotional with Isaiah.

Theme Verses: Isaiah 2:1–5, 11:1–10, 35:1–10, and 7:10–16 (source: [gathermagazine.org](http://gathermagazine.org)).

Prayer: "Creator God, you show us the way to make visible the invisible. Through our imagination and our senses: May you come alive in us! Attentiveness to the present moment: Be born in us today. Openness in service to others: Be born in us today. Gratitude for abundant grace: Be born in us today. Communion in the Holy Spirit: Be born in us today. We pray these things, remembering that you are nearer to us than our very breath. Amen."

If you are interested in learning more about the Bible Study in *Gather* magazine, check out a copy from the OSL Library.

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



a group of giving women, guided by the Holy Spirit, who strive to make a difference in our community.

I will remain on the board in an advisory position, and Nancy Krueger will take over as president. Please thank Tami Skorczewski for her leadership as she ends her time on the board, having served as vice-president, president, and advisor. Tami's energy and dedication are hard to beat! Also, if you see Michelle Schuknecht, thank her for her service as vice-president and the time she's spent keeping us up-to-date on current events.

**WELCA Christmas Luncheon** will be held on December 7, at 11:00, in The Gathering Place. The guest speaker will be Tom Roberts, who has written several Christmas books over the years, the latest being *On That One Christmas*



## OSLC Foundation

### What Moves You?

A recent read of Zig Ziglar quotations has prompted the writing for this last *Intercom* article of 2019. Ziglar said, "People often say that motivation doesn't last. Well, neither does bathing—that's why we recommend it daily."

If we need another source of motivation, read 2 Corinthians 9:7. We often hear the last part quoted—"for God loves a cheerful giver"—but for a change, let's focus on the first part of the verse: "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion." From my view there is great freedom in those words—they can mean that whatever the motivation is for us to give, it our choice. Perhaps we give because we are generous. Maybe it is because we are tax-wise. Another reason might be because we desire to have the Good News of the Gospel preached. Suddenly the list can grow rather quickly! Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the prisoner—all come to mind.

If we keep our eyes and ears open we may find something that moves us to action.

At Our Savior's, we have three distinct yet different ways to direct our giving:

- ♦ First, to the annual fund. This drives the day-to-day operation of the OSL mission.
- ♦ Second, to the Mission: Possible endeavor. This pays down the debt from the new and expanded physical plant.
- ♦ Third, to the OSLC Foundation. Give now and build the endowment, which serves annual needs again and again and again, or give later and help continue to fuel ongoing needs.

Want more information on how all phases of giving work? Just contact me, Jon Oien, [joien@sio.midco.net](mailto:joien@sio.midco.net). We can move together!





During last month's *Belong* series, OSL children highlighted the theme with an Inside Out Movie and Pizza Shuffle, Take Out Church Skittle Conversation box, a new book club for moms,

and Kindness Rocks, all with the objective of getting conversation rolling to remind people that they belong to God and in community.

In a basket alongside paint pens, smooth white rocks invited students and adults alike to stop and design a prayer rock for someone in their life to remind them they are loved. Community instantly formed around the table. Creativity inked the rocks as people imagined blessing special people in their lives.

One young boy held his tight. As I explained how to use them, he waved his high in the air. "Did you make one?" I asked.

"Yes, and I'm bringing it to a friend at school tomorrow."

Our congregation seeks to connect faith to everyday life. The message sinks into our heart and, inspired by it, we live it out for the world to know. In this case, it meant a child—knowing he belongs and is loved—sharing a sense of belonging and value with a friend on the school ground.

Kindness rocks!

—Melissa Nesdahl, Director of Faith Formation

## SAVE THE DATES!

### OSL Children's Milestones and Singing 2019–2020

*All Sunday School and Wednesday School students age four through grade five sing*

- December 15** at 8:45 Celebrate & 11:00 Festive (Children's Christmas Program) *Rehearsal on December 14, morning*
- February 9** at 8:45 Celebrate (4<sup>th</sup> Grade Milestone)
- March 15** at 11:00 Festive (1<sup>st</sup> Grade Milestone)
- March 29** No Singing (4- and 5-Year-Old Preschool Milestone)
- April 5** at 8:45 Celebrate & 11:00 Festive (Palm Sunday Procession)
- April 9** No singing (5<sup>th</sup> Grade Milestone) *Agape Meal April 8*
- April 26** at 8:45 Celebrate (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Milestone)

*Sunday learners will not attend Sunday School on dates they have a milestone, since you will have Family Time with Pr. Sami at 10:00 A.M. in the Friendship Room.*



Winter is a busy time for OSL youth, with three major events over the next two months:

High-school students will meet in the Youth Room on December 18, at 6:30 P.M., to set off on the second annual Progressive Dinner and White Elephant Gift Exchange. We have rented a bus, and will head out to eat three courses at three different locations, ending at OSL with dessert and



### Progressive Dinner and White Elephant Gift Exchange

gift exchange. There is no cost for this event. OSL will provide lasagna, and we will have extra gifts and wrapping paper in case someone forgets. Parents/caring adults: We are looking for people to donate desserts for this event. Chaperones: We are also looking for some adults to help serve the main course at OSL and help supervise for the evening. Sign up at [oslchurch.com/youth-family](http://oslchurch.com/youth-family).

The second annual Middle School Youth Group Christmas Games and White Elephant Gift Exchange will be on Sunday, December 15, from 5:00 to 8:00 P.M. We will begin at with Christmas games, pizza at 6:00, then

### Middle School Christmas Games and White Elephant Gift Exchange

White Elephant Gifts opening. There is no cost for this event and OSL will provide the pizza. Parents/caring adults: We are looking for chaperones to help supervise and serve food. I will have extra gifts and wrapping paper in case someone forgets. Sign up at [oslchurch.com/youth-family](http://oslchurch.com/youth-family).

High-school youth will head to Okoboji Winter Retreat on Friday, January 24 (through Sunday, January 26). This will be a great weekend of bonding, growing in faith, and fun. We will stay at Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp and attend the Okoboji Winter Games on Saturday, go out

### OKOBOJI WINTER RETREAT

**JAN 24 @ 7PM TO JAN 26 @ 5PM**

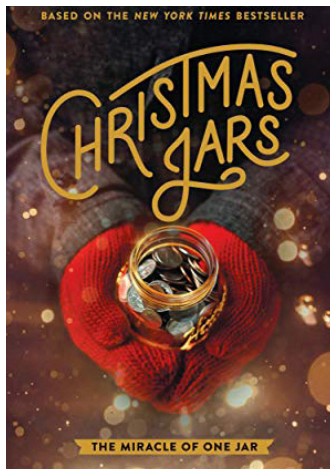
to dinner, spend time bonding in the retreat center, attend worship at a local Lutheran church, and spend a few hours at Boji Splash Indoor Waterpark. The cost for students is \$15, plus money for dinner. The \$15 includes two nights' lodging, the retreat center, two lunches and two breakfasts, snacks, 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).

## 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 Shepherd on the Search! On Sundays and Wednesdays beginning December 1, patrons who find one of the nativity figures hidden around the front of 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.



## Second Saturday Movie



This month's Second Saturday Movie, on December 14, will be *Christmas Jars*.

Based on the New York *Times* bestselling novel by Jason F. Wright, *Christmas Jars* tells the story of Hope, an aspiring reporter who has had her fair share of tragedy in life. Abandoned at birth, she's grieving the recent death of her adopted mother when her apartment is burglarized of all her possessions.

While reporting the burglary to the police, Hope discovers a jar full of money, labeled "Christmas Jar." Shocked and grateful for this act of kindness, Hope discovers that people all over her hometown of Columbus, Ohio, have been receiving Christmas Jars for years during times of need. The jars are always anonymous and always contain different amounts. In this heartwarming Christmas classic, Hope goes undercover to discover the secret behind the Christmas jars, putting into motion a series of events that will change her life and her community forever.

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!

## 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<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the Month — 10:00 A.M.–noon, 4:30–6:30 P.M.

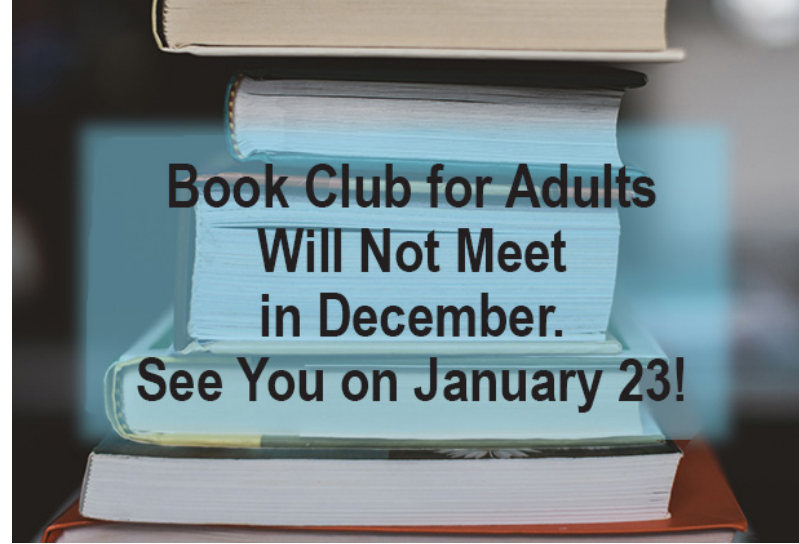


Photo by Claudia on Unsplash

## Advent Joy

Add joy to your Advent season by checking out books on display for children, youth, and adults! Be sure to visit the Advent and Christmas 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, one for adults.



Photo by Waldemar Brandt on Unsplash

## OSL Library Online Catalog

Access the OSL Library's online catalog, OPAC, to search for items, see a carousel of new books, read snapshots of featured books, 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.

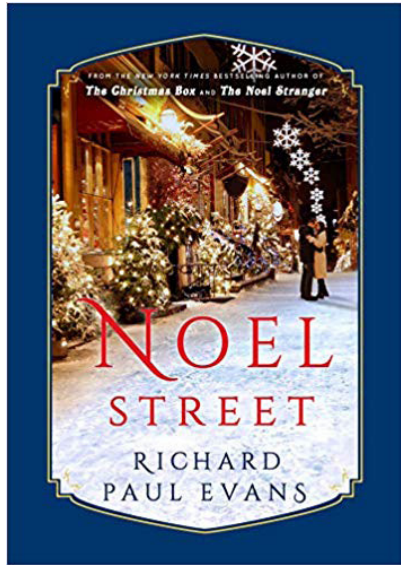
Visit OPAC by going to [oslchurch.com/library](http://oslchurch.com/library) and clicking the button, or scan the QR code at right.





## New for Adults

**Noel Street** by Richard Paul Evans. The year is 1975. Elle Sheen is a single mother who is supporting herself and her six-year-old son, Dylan. As a waitress at the Noel Street Diner, Elle isn't sure what to make of William Smith when his appearance creates a stir in the small town of Mistletoe, Utah.



As their lives unexpectedly entwine, Elle learns that William, a recently returned Vietnam POW, is not only fighting demons from his past, but may also have the answer to Elle's own secret pain—a revelation that culminates in a remarkable act

of love and forgiveness.

### Additional New Titles for Adults

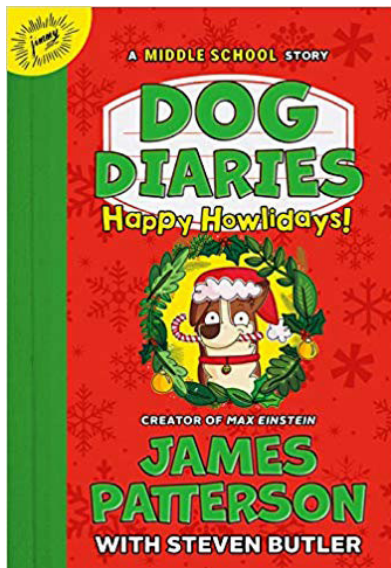
- *Spirit of the Season* by Fern Michaels
- *The Testaments* by Margaret Atwood
- *Call Your Daughter Home* by Deb Spera

## New for Middle- and High-School Youth

**Dog Diaries: Happy Howlidays** by James Patterson. Are you ready for a festive adventure? Join Junior on the most pawsome, most barktastic journey through the howliday season. You'll read all about:

- Fangsgiving, critter-mess, and the mysterious Saint Lick.
- Why strange humans called Carol come and howl at the front door.
- And why shiny trees suddenly sprout inside your kennel.

This will be the best holiday ever. As long as the Mom-Lady doesn't find out what Junior did to the Fangsgiving turkey. You can keep a secret, right?

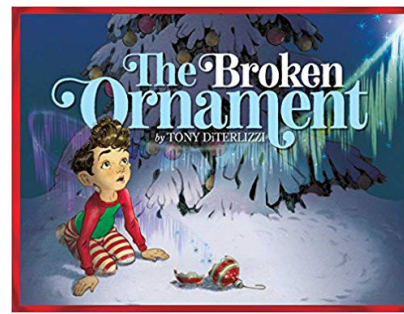


### Additional New Titles for Middle- and High-School Youth

- *Guinness World Records 2020* by Guinness World Records
- *Sunny Rolls the Dice* by Jennifer L. Holm
- *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Wrecking Ball* by Jeff Kinney

## New Picture, Early Reader, and Chapter Books

**The Broken Ornament** by Tony DiTerlizzi. Jack wants this to be



the best Christmas ever, and he knows just how to make it happen—more lights, more presents, more cookies, more treats. More. More. More!

When Jack breaks a dusty old ornament, he's not sure why his mom is so upset. They can always get more ornaments, so

what's the big deal? Turns out the ornament was an heirloom, precious for more reasons than one. Jack has a lot to learn about the true meaning of Christmas.

A fairy emerges from the shattered ornament. She has the power to make the most magical Christmasy things happen. Suddenly trees are sprouting, reindeer are flying, and snowmen are snowball fighting. All of it is so perfect, or it would be if she could fix Mom's ornament, but she can't. Now it's up to Jack to make some Christmas magic of his own.

### Additional New Picture Books

- *How to Catch an Elf* by Adam Wallace and Andy Elkerton
- *Cami Kangaroo Has Too Much Stuff* by Stacy C. Bauer

### New Early Reader Books

- *Narwhal: Unicorn of the Sea* (Narwhal and Jelly series) by Mo Williams
- *The World of Dinosaurs* by Bendon Reading Discovery Books

### New Chapter Books

- *The Unicorn in the Barn* by Jacqueline K. Ogburn
- *Mystery on Church Hill* by Steven K. Smith



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# The *intercom* In Church and Community

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## *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

## *Advent and Christmas Worship Services*

See Front Cover

## *Television and Internet*

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

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

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

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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 September 30

|                         | Annual Giving |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| Projected Contributions | \$1,969,580   |
| Received YTD            | \$1,485,727   |
| Remaining               | \$483,853     |
| Projected YTD           | \$1,628,446   |
| Ahead/(Behind)          | (\$142,719)   |