

The *intercom* In Church and Community

From the Senior Pastor A New Day for Church Governance



"Religion at its best is no friend of the status quo."

So begins Dan Hotchkiss's book *Governance and Ministry: Rethinking Board Leadership*.

In it he identifies three signs of health for

measuring the effectiveness of governance in congregations:

- *A unified structure for making governance decisions*, which include articulating mission, vision, and strategy; delegating the authority to achieve these things; and ensuring that authority is used responsibly and well.
- *A unified structure for making operational decisions* that delegates authority to create and manage effective programming and requires accountability so that the congregation's ministry goals and overall mission are achieved.
- *An open, creative, and accountable atmosphere for ministry* in which congregational members readily share their talents and interests in support of the congregation's mission.

Hotchkiss says, "The purpose of a governance structure is to deploy the congregation's power in a way that is both effective and legitimate" all in support of the congregation's mission." (p. 7)

In its research over the last 24 months or so, the Executive Committee has reflected on Hotchkiss's wisdom as it has reviewed OSL's gover-

nance structure. Our current strategic plan, affirmed at the 2016 annual meeting, called for this period of evaluation and research, recognizing that the structure that exists now may not be serving our mission as well as we need it to.

As a result of its research and discernment, the Executive Committee has recommended to the Congregation Council, which has subsequently voted unanimously to recommend to the congregation, that a new governance structure be implemented on a trial basis in 2019. This structure would consist of a seven-member Governing Board that includes the president, vice president, immediate past president, secretary, treasurer, one at-large member, and the senior pastor, all of whom would have voice and vote. Except for the past president and the senior pastor, all members would be elected by the congregation at its annual meeting in January. The governing board would exercise authority on matters related to governance (articulating mission, strategic planning, oversight of ministry, ensuring people and property are protected) and be served by three standing committees: Finance; Policy and Leadership Development; and Stewardship Development. A governing board member and the

senior pastor would serve on each of these three committees along with several lay volunteers appointed by the governing board.

The senior pastor would also serve as head of staff and oversee the ministry of the congregation, which would be carried out by five core ministry teams lead by a full-time program staff member appointed by the senior pastor. Each core ministry team would include other staff members and lay volunteers appointed by the core ministry team leader. The five core ministry teams include Worship; Faith Formation; Discipleship; Spiritual Care; and Love in Action. Each core ministry team will be authorized to form secondary ministry teams to facilitate its area of ministry. These secondary ministry teams would exist for as long as necessary and include lay volunteers who would serve without limitation to term.

continued



OUR SAVIOR'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Embracing Faith in Everyday Life

Annual
Meeting
Sunday, January 27
12:30 p.m. ♦ Lunch Prior



OUR SAVIOR'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Embracing Faith in Everyday Life

continued from cover

This proposed structure is detailed in two documents that were shared at the December 9 congregational meeting. The first, “Our Savior’s Lutheran Church—An Evolution of Our Service to God,” summarizes the process of review and evaluation carried out by the Executive Committee, their findings, their recommendation, and a summary of the proposed governance structure. The second document, “Interim Bylaws,” would be the official document the congregation would use to guide our ministry going forward on a trial basis *if the congregation votes affirmatively* to implement the proposed governance structure recommended by the Congregation Council.

I strongly encourage you to pick up these two documents at the kiosk near the Information Center, or find them online at www.oslchurch.com, as well as a copy of our current bylaws, and begin the process of familiarizing yourself with these proposed changes. When we convene for our annual meeting on January 27, the recommendation from the Congregation Council will be on the agenda and a vote will be taken.

In addition to these documents, there will also be at least two informational forums during January to give you the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback regarding this proposal as well as the draft 2019 ministry plan (budget). Details of when and where these forums will occur will be forthcoming.

In the meantime, please include OSL in your prayers as we engage this holy work of discernment together over the next several weeks. May the Holy Spirit guide our conversation, grant us wisdom, and strengthen us in faith and in our resolve to proclaim Christ and nurture faith that connects with everyday life.

With great excitement for the future of OSL,

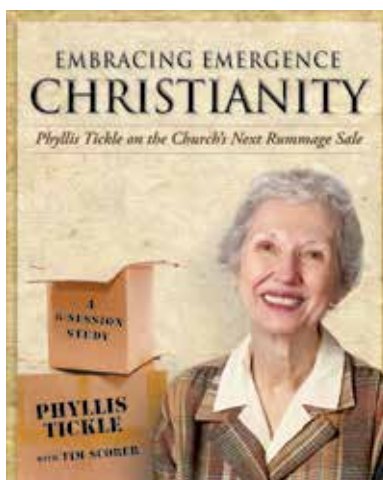


Pr. Randy Gehring

Connecting Faith and Life

Join Pastor Randy for the next session of this adult learning opportunity beginning on Wednesday, January 9, from 6:00 to 7:00 P.M., in the Friendship Room. For seven weeks, the group will meet to discuss what author, historian, and keen cultural observer Phyllis Tickle refers to as Emergence Christianity.

Through video and group discussion, the group will examine the changing face of Christianity and culture through Tickle’s survey of 2,000 years of Western history, in which she identifies the great upheavals that occur



in Western culture and Christianity every 500 years. The last was the Great Reformation of the 1500s; the next is happening now.

Questions the group will engage include: What are the implications of this “Great Emergence,” both culturally and spiritually? What are the key questions and issues that need to be addressed? Where might we be headed next? And, perhaps most importantly, where are you, at this moment? Might you be an emergence Christian?

Workbooks are available in the Church Office. A donation of \$15 will help cover the cost of course materials.

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Guess What Day It Is!

In celebration of the Day of Epiphany, real live camels will be present at OSL on the morning of Sunday, January 6. It'll be a perfect way to commemorate the revelation of Christ to all nations, and also a great photo op!



Photo by Cal Engel on Unsplash

St. Olaf Choir at OSL

The St. Olaf Choir, conducted by Anton Armstrong, will begin its 2019 Winter Tour with a concert at Our Savior's, on Saturday, January 17, at 7:00 P.M.

The St. Olaf Choir, comprised of 75 mixed voices, is the premier a cappella choir in the United States. The ensemble's annual tour brings its artistry and message to thousands of people across the nation and around the world.

Visit <https://wp.stolaf.edu/stolaf-choir/> to purchase tickets.



A Place to Belong

If you've moved often, you may know when a place starts to feel like home to you. Personally, when I have moved into a new place, I haven't needed a whole lot of furniture or even a comfortable couch for a place to feel like home. I simply need to hook up my stereo and play my own music. Once I hear my own music in a place, I can start to see how I belong there.

At church, the process is a bit different. Even if a church plays songs you like, that doesn't mean it's a place that will feel like home. You have to settle in; you have to come a few times. You have to feel comfortable with the people around you, even if you don't know them. Still, like moving into your own home, a church community won't become your community until you add your own personal touch.

This is what congregation membership means at Our Savior's. You've arrived here. You know this is a place you could find yourself comfortable. Now, come and discover how you can add your own personal touch—how you can make this church your church.

As a prospective member, you may have questions. Does joining a new congregation mean you give up on your old one? Does it come with some hidden benefits other people aren't telling you about? Or does it suddenly mean new commitments, new expectations? The answers are often easier than you think. Contact Loretta, 336-2942, ext. 14, or lnelson@oslchurch.com, to reserve your spot at OSL's New Member Orientation on Saturday, January 19, from 9:00 to 11:30 A.M., and find out how easy it is to make yourself at home at Our Savior's. New members will be received at worship services on January 26 and 27.

—Pr. Justin Kosec

Memorials and Honoraria November 2018

In Memory of Matt Does

Stacy Kruse
Scott and Judy Kruse
Robert and Robin Rogers

In Memory of Velma Johnshoy

William and Sharon Speed

In Memory of Susan Jordahl

Doreen DeBoer

Baptisms

November 11, 2018

Elliott Ronald Mortensen, the son of Aaron and Jess Mortensen.
Cashten Crew Albers, the son of Chris and Amy Albers.

November 18, 2018

August Charles Terrill, the son of Codi and Hillery Terrill.
Willa Boyd Glover, the son of Daniel and Lauren Glover.

November 24, 2018

Cameron Joseph Pociask, the son of Chris and Danielle Pociask.
Cade August Maurer, son of Michael and Melissa Maurer.

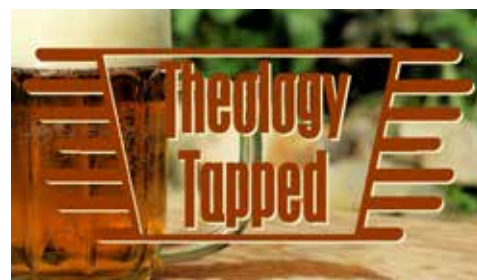
November 25, 2018

Juliet Kelli Larsen, daughter of Matthew and Jessica Larsen.



November 18, 2018

Telecasts are sponsored in memory of Martin and Alma Reinecke and Harold and Arlen Guthmiller by Margaret Novak.



Theology Tapped

Looking for engaging conversation on matters of faith and life in a fun, informal setting? Join Pr. Randy for Theology Tapped on Thursday, January 24, from 8:00 to 9:30 P.M., at Monk's House of Ale Repute, 420 E. 8th St.

It's Not Too Late!

But the day may soon come when you'll wish you had signed up to join Prs. Randy and Shelly Gehring on a cruise to the Greek Isles and Europe, including the Passion Play of Oberammergau—so don't delay! Contact Pr. Randy, 336-2942 or 595-4335, or rgehring@oslchurch.com.

GREEK ISLES CRUISE & EUROPE
 INCLUDING THE PASSION PLAY OF OBERAMMERGAU
11 Days: May 27 - June 6, 2020



Hosted By
Pastors Randy & Shelly Gehring

Athens * Mykonos * Ephesus * Patmos * Crete
 Santorini * Corinth * Munich * Salzburg



**\$5299 FROM
 SIOUX FALLS**
(Air/land/cruise tour price is \$4699
 plus \$600 government
 taxes/airline surcharges)



Featuring: Roundtrip airfare from Sioux Falls, first class (Category 1) admission tickets to the Passion Play, accommodations at first class/select hotels (hotels & guesthouses in Oberammergau) on the land portion, accommodations on the cruise in inside cabins, most meals on land portion, all meals & a standard drinks package on cruise, comprehensive services of a professional English-speaking tour director, all hotel service charges, value added taxes, portage where available & entrance fees per the itinerary.

FOR A BROCHURE WITH FULL DETAILS, CONTACT OR DETACH & MAIL TO:

Pastor Randy Gehring OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH 909 W. 33rd Street Sioux Falls, SD 57105 Tel: (605) 336-2942 (Office) (605) 595-4335 (Cell) Email: rgehring@oslchurch.com gehringshell@gmail.com	Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Tel: _____ Email: _____
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NAWAS INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL, INC.

Meetings with Jesus by Jodie Nielsen

Gather magazine's next Bible study will be a four-part study "in John's gospel, rather than a comprehensive study of John's gospel":



Meetings with Jesus by Julie A. Kanarr. Session one: "Come and See: Seeking and Finding Faith." Theme/focus verse: "[Jesus] said to them, 'Come and see.'" John 1:39a

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. 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.

WELCA's 2019 Slate of Officers

- President – Jodie Nielsen
- Vice President – Michelle Schuknecht
- Treasurer – Open
- Secretary – Nancy Krueger
- Missions – Open
- Advisor – Tami Skorczewski

Please prayerfully consider joining the board and filling one of the open positions. Questions? Let me know: jodie.nielsen@gmail.com.

WELCA Board Members: Jodie Nielsen, President; Michelle Schuknecht, Vice President; Nancy Krueger, Secretary; Tami Skorczewski, Advisor.



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.

January Menus (subject to change)

Sunday Breakfasts

- 6 – Eggs and bacon
- 13 – Egg bake
- 20 – Eggs and bacon
- 27 – French toast bake

Wednesday Dinners

- 2 – Tater tot casserole, Jell-O, tossed lettuce salad, and bread
- 9 – Fried chicken dinner
- 16 – Meatloaf dinner
- 23 – Chicken enchiladas
- 30 – Lasagna

OSL Member Delaine Shay to Speak of Hope and Healing

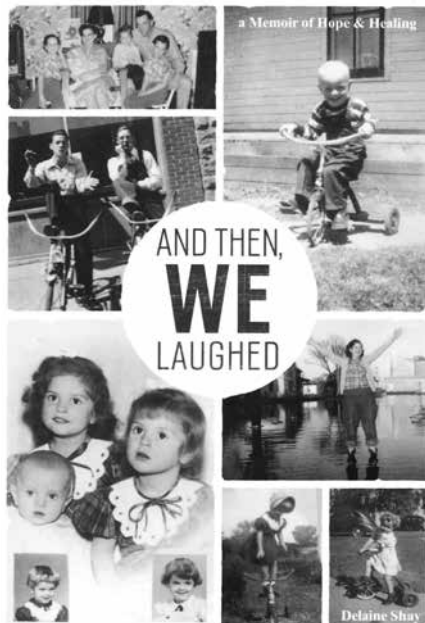
Who, if anyone, could protect me? Why would a loving God do all of this?

Delaine Shay, a longtime member of OSL and volunteer coordinator for OSL's Addiction Ministries, will discuss her book *And Then, We Laughed: A Memoir of Hope & Healing* on Sunday, January 13, at 10:00 A.M., in the Celebrate Center.

And Then, We Laughed is an intimate story of perseverance, courage, faith, and humor despite life's toughest challenges. Delaine's story includes tragic deaths, the challenge of depression, and recovery from alcoholism—an ongoing journey. Her book is about how God took a mess and made it a message.

God was there when I needed Him most.

Finally, I came to understand God was reaching out to me to try to help me through those tough situations.... And Then, We Laughed!



Serving Our Neighbors

Necessities for Neighbors is a local outreach program to help our neighbors in need by providing certain necessities that people cannot buy with Food Stamps. Each month, toilet paper, laundry detergent, feminine hygiene products, and diapers are distributed to over 300 local families.

Our Savior's is excited to participate in the Necessities for Neighbors program each February, on the first Sunday of the month. OSL's challenge this year is to collect 1,000 rolls of toilet paper during January. Bring packages of any brand of toilet paper to the donation area near the south entrance.

Want to help out with the February 3 Necessities for Neighbors distribution, at Peace Lutheran Church? Look for the Signup sheet at the Information Center!



Guest speaker Richard Bowman, Ph.D., Professor of Religion at Augustana University, will help Friendship Club kick off 2019 with his January 15 presentation, "Religion and Baseball!" This fun-filled talk will combine two of Rich's passions: religious studies and America's favorite summer pastime, baseball.

The fun will begin at 10:30 A.M. in the Friendship Room, followed by lunch in The Gathering Place at 11:30. Come and enjoy this entertaining time together, and, as always, bring a *friend* or two to Friendship Club!

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 2, 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). Wednesdays, January 9 and 23, 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.

Mental Health First Aid



WHEN

Thursday, Feb. 28
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

WHERE

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, ELCA
909 W. 33rd Street
Sioux Falls, SD



MHFA is the initial help given to someone who may be developing a mental illness or experiencing a mental health crisis. The aid provided is not a substitute for professional help, but may help in stabilizing the person until appropriate professional or other assistance is engaged.

This 8 - hour course teaches people how to give first aid to individuals experiencing a mental health crisis situation and/or who are in the early stages of a mental health disorder. Participants will learn the signs and symptoms of the most common mental health problems, where and when to get help, and what type of help has been shown to be effective.

Training is **FREE!**
Registration: mhfa022819.eventbrite.com

helplinecenter.org | 1.800.273.8255 | DIAL 211

Some Extra Help

Caring Ministries staff and volunteers frequently encounter folks from the OSL congregation who need a little extra help. They often come to us with their needs, and we do our best to connect them with others who can help them. The tasks may be as simple as changing a light bulb, getting a few groceries, or putting a load of laundry in the washer or dryer—easy for most of us, but for some of our members these tasks become overwhelmingly difficult.

Sometimes the help is temporary, for a few weeks, until a family member can resume helping. Sometimes it's long-term. (When there's a need for a more permanent, paid caregiver, OSL makes referrals to local agencies who provide these professional caregivers.)

Caring Ministries staff would love to be able to connect willing OSL members with those who could use a helping hand. If you would like to learn more about these opportunities to love and serve—or *if you yourself are in need of a helping hand*—contact Pr. Tim Lemme (336-2942, ext. 19, or tlemme@oslchurch.com); Deb Harlan, Caring Ministries Director (336-2942, ext. 48, or dharlan@oslchurch.com); or Michelle Anderson, Faith Family Nurse (336-2942, ext. 28, or mianderson@oslchurch.com).

Say Cheeeeeeeese!



If you haven't had your portrait taken yet for the upcoming OSL Pictorial Directory, you still have time—but not much!

The remaining rounds of sittings are January 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 22, 23, 24, 25, 26. And slots are filling up fast, so don't delay!

Sign up in one of three ways: (1) Stop by the table on the west side of The Gathering Place on Sunday morning. (2) Visit the OSL website (<https://wp.me/p7kcCI-2Ej>) and follow the link to sign up online. (3) Contact Loretta in the Church Office, 336-2942, ext. 14, and lock down an appointment!

And say *cheeeeeeeese!*

Hurt, Healing, and Hope

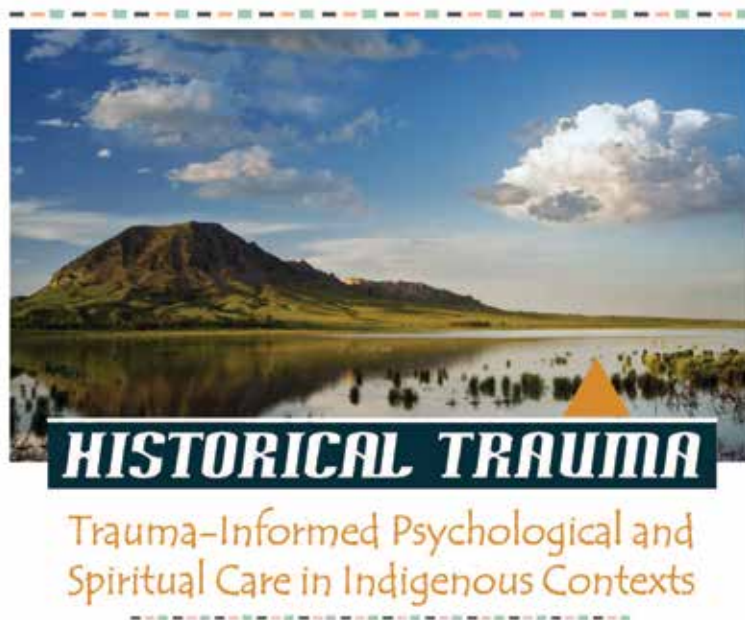
Historical Trauma: Trauma-Informed Psychological and Spiritual Care in Indigenous Contexts, two days of dialogue on hurt, healing, and hope, will take place at Sioux Falls Seminary, 2100 S. Summit Ave., on Wednesday, February 13, from 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., and Thursday, February 14, from 8:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.

Come and hear stories of trauma among Indigenous people as well as stories of healing and hope. Discover what trauma-informed psychological and spiritual care looks like, or could look like, in Indigenous contexts, and learn about perspectives and methods of spiritual care informed by an Indigenous understanding of theology and psychology.

The workshop will include presentations by Diane Campeau, Terry LeBlanc, and Linda and Rick Martin, and incorporate talking circles, traditional contextualized forms of worship, and large-group dialogue.

Encouraged to attend are Indigenous people, Indigenous people involved in ministry with Indigenous people, non-Indigenous individuals involved in ministry with Indigenous people, seminary students, and anyone with a desire to learn more about the issue of trauma and its impact on Indigenous populations across North America.

The workshop costs \$79 per person, which includes lunch on Wednesday but does not include lodging. Visit historicaltrauma.eventbrite.com



for more details, including lodging suggestion, and to register. Registration deadline in February 7.

Questions? Contact Dr. Doug Anderson, danderson@sfseminary.edu or 334-2696. This event is sponsored by Indigenous Pathways and Sioux Falls Seminary.

In the Bleak Midwinter By Joan Bacon

As I write this article, softly falling snow settles on the Christmas evergreens and red bows on our deck. But as you read it, Christmas will be past and your decorations snugly stored away. Mine still will be up; I'm a procrastinator.

But prompt or pokey, our January landscapes both probably include snow—not just

“snow,” but “snow on snow, snow on snow.”



stephen
MINISTRY

The image of “snow on snow, snow on snow” was penned by Christina Georgiana Rossetti in a poem published in January 1872. Her words stood the test of time in the Christmas carol “In the Bleak Midwinter,” describing the simplicity of Christ's nativity, glory of his second coming, and her gift to him—her heart. But before she got to that good stuff, she painted this cold, dreary picture:

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Sound familiar? Advent's anticipation is past; the holiday cheer is done; it's time to shovel our way through January...and February...and on and on.

But sometimes, shoveling is not enough. The bleakness of midwinter closes in, and problems pile up, heavy and layered, like “snow on snow, snow on snow.”

If your inner winter scene holds too much “snow,” Stephen Ministers can help you by listening in a confidential, non-judgmental manner; just contact Pr. Tim Lemme, Deb Harlan, or any Stephen Minister.

Men's Bible Breakfast

OSL's Men's Bible Breakfast group 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 at each gathering. Men of all ages are invited to attend this one-hour Bible study when it meets on January 5 and January 19.

For more details, contact Pr. Tim Lemme, tlemme@oslchurch.com or 336-2942, ext. 19.

Time to Simplify

I recently read an article by a company that promotes multi-channel marketing. Perhaps you've heard of the plan: use email blasts, Tweets, Instagram, Facebook, and might as well add robocalls to reach prospects and clients. The company says that consumers are flooded with 3,000 to 3,500 marketing messages each day. No fooling!

On the other end of the spectrum we hear in an old John Prine song that we should "Blow up your TV, throw away your paper, go to the country, build you a home." Somewhere in between is probably where we want to be. But how do we get there? One the of the better suggestions I've heard is to simplify.

It begins with a self-inventory of your "stuff" and a self-assessment of how you define yourself mentally, physically, emotionally, and spiritually. This could turn out to be a big project! But this journey will be worthwhile and it may allow you to focus on a few core values.

At OSL, we have identified five core values: worship, service, learning, community, and generosity. You won't be surprised to discover that you have similar values. These same values led to the formation of the OSLC Foundation. If you are willing to spare an hour or so, I'd appreciate the opportunity to visit and discuss those values with you—contact me at joien@sio.midco.net. We may find ways for you to simplify and benefit your church community at the same time. We'll keep it simple!



YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN
THE SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD, ELCA AND
LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF SD FOR:

INTERFAITH DAY

Honoring our commitment to ecumenical and inter-religious outreach, we would be grateful if you would join us for a day at the Capitol as we stand in solidarity with our neighbors of other faiths across this great state.

JANUARY 9, 2019
STATE CAPITOL
PIERRE, SD

Starting at 9 AM with morning coffee at
Lutheran Memorial Church
320 E Prospect Ave
Pierre, SD 57501
Morning Prayer in the Rotunda to follow at 10:30 AM

 **South Dakota Synod**
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.





LUTHER HOUSE OF STUDY

JANUARY 6-8 PROCLAMATION ON THE PLAINS

Commemorating the 500th Anniversary of the
Heidelberg Disputation

Come join us for three days of learning and fellowship as we focus on one of Martin Luther's most theologically determinative disputations. Our afternoon sessions will cover the topics: 1) Law 2) Good Works & 3) Bondage of the Will. The evening sessions will discuss "What Makes a Theologian: The Heidelberg Disputation." This conference is free and open to rostered leaders and the public.

Sponsored by:



Steven Paulson
Chris Croghan
Sarah Stenson

**Continuing Education
for Rostered Leaders**
1:30-3:00 p.m.

**Evening Sessions
open to the public**
6:30-8:00 p.m.

**Also available live
stream on-line**

**Sioux Falls
Seminary**
2100 S. Summit Ave
Sioux Falls SD

RSVP

Please e-mail
sstenson@augie.edu to
register

605-274-4808

lutherhouseofstudy.org/events

What's Coming Up?

Every week, nearly 1,500 OSL members and friends receive *Coming up at Our Savior's*, an email update of news and events for the week ahead (and a little further out). To be included, simply scan



the QR Code at right and fill out the contact form. Or, visit oslchurch.com/category/osl-news, select the latest edition of *Coming up at Our Savior's*, and click the button at the bottom of that page.

There's always a lot happening at OSL—be sure to keep up-to-date!



Faith Formation Notes



On January 13, OSL children will be celebrating the Baptism of our Lord Milestone. This milestone is for all who have been baptized in the last year.

We'll honor it during all worship services, and between worship services, at 10:00 A.M., all the newly baptized and their parents are invited to join Pr. Sami for Family Time, in the Friendship Room. You'll engage in meaningful activity and receive a beautiful gift from your congregation to celebrate this milestone in faith.

Youth Ministry Notes



Summer Trips

OSL Youth 2019 Summer Trips are set, and we have 18 high-school youths headed to Hillside, Colorado, for the Compass Points

Backpacking Adventure Trip, and 27 middle and high-school students headed to Duluth, Minnesota, for our Service Learning Mission Trip. It is exciting to see so many youths engaged in ministry here at Our Savior's, ready to grow in their faith while challenging themselves in Colorado or serving the people of Duluth. We look forward to sharing more about these trips in the coming months and to inviting the congregation to be a part of the ministry through prayer, service, and support.

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. In January we will be starting a new series, based around the Disney movie *Frozen*. Each week we will look at different choices made by the characters, then play winter-themed games in a giant monthlong competition for prizes and glory. In February, after the *Frozen* series, our own Elle Weg will be leading a series about humor in the Bible.

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. In January, sixth-graders will be doing a program called "Everyday Samaritan." This is a five-session unit on learning and practicing empathy, inclusion, and being a good friend. Seventh- and eighth-graders will each choose a five-week elective that

they will attend on Wednesday nights during January. Last year these included things like Worship Workshop with Andrea Degroot-Nesdahl and Denny Gale, Peer Ministry Preview with Trish Syverson, Woodshop Ministry with Pr. Tim, and My Neighbor Is Muslim with Joan Bacon. For questions or to register contact Nicole Mindt, 336-2942, ext. 33, or nmindt@oslchurch.com.

Youth Events

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.

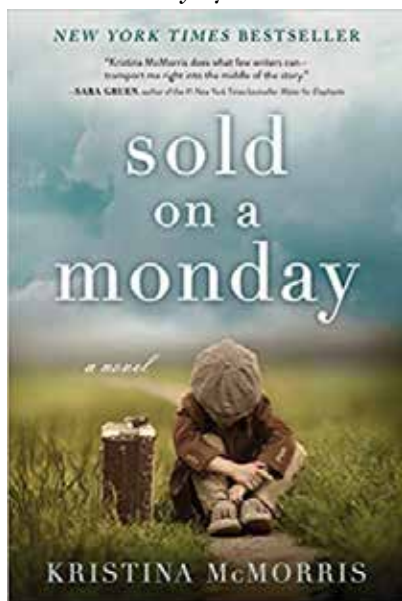
Middle School Glow Games. John went a little crazy the night after Halloween, buying glow-in-the-dark gear, and now we get to enjoy a night of crazy games and activities where everything glows. Middle-schoolers are invited to the first annual Glow Games on Sunday, January 13, from 5:00 to 7:00 P.M. We will serve a meal, and there is no cost for this event. See your monthly Youth Happening email or contact John, jschomberg@oslchurch.com, to sign up.

More great youth events are coming up in February, including the Hunger and Thirst Middle School Lock-in on Friday, February 8; ESCAPE High School Lock-in on Friday, February 22; and Stampede Hockey with Wiener Dog Nationals on Saturday, February 23! Watch for details!

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

Winter One Church One Read

Sold on a Monday by Kristina McMorris is the OSL Library committee's selection for the Winter One Church One Read title.



"Two Children for Sale." The sign is a last resort. It sits on a farmhouse porch in 1931, but could be found anywhere in an era of breadlines, bank runs, and broken dreams. Any mother facing impossible choices could have written it.

For struggling reporter Ellis Reed, the gut-wrenching scene evokes memories of his family's dark past. He snaps a photograph of the children, not meant for publication, but when it

leads to his big break, the consequences are more devastating than he ever imagined.

At the paper, Lillian Palmer is haunted by her role in all that happened. She is far too familiar with the heartbreak of children deemed unwanted. As the bonds of motherhood are tested, she and Ellis must decide how much they are willing to risk to mend a fractured family.

Inspired by an actual newspaper photograph that stunned the nation, *Sold on a Monday* is a powerful novel of love, redemption, and the unexpected paths that bring us home.

Copies of the book will be available for checkout on January 16; the discussion will be at 10:00 A.M. on March 24 in the Conference Room.

Second Saturday Movie

This month's feature, on January 12, will be *Beautifully Broken*, the true



story of three families from different countries, each struggling to find hope and safety amid the devastation of war. A refugee's escape, a prisoner's promise, and a daughter's painful secret converge in this inspiring real life story of hope. As three fathers fight to save their families, their lives become intertwined in an unlikely journey across the globe, where they learn the healing power of forgiveness and reconciliation.

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 novel. The January 24 selection will be *Outlander* by Diana Gabaldon.



This first of the *Outlander* novels introduces two remarkable characters, Claire Beauchamp Randall and Jamie Fraser, in a novel of passion and history that combines exhilarating adventure with a love story for the ages.

Claire Randall, a former British combat nurse, is just back from the war and reunited with her husband on a second honeymoon when

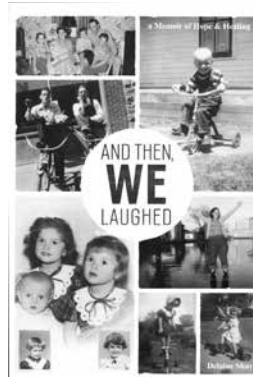
she walks through a standing stone in one of the ancient circles that dot the British Isles. Suddenly she is a Sassenach—an "outlander"—in a Scotland torn by war and raiding clans in the year of Our Lord... 1743.

Claire is hurled into the intrigues of a world that threatens her life and may shatter her heart. Marooned amid danger, passion, and violence, Claire learns her only chance of safety lies in Jamie Fraser, a gallant young Scots warrior. What begins in compulsion becomes urgent need, and Claire finds herself torn between two very different men, in two irreconcilable lives.

Join this exciting community of readers! A list of 2019 selections is available in the OSL Library.

New for Adults

And Then, We Laughed by Delaine Shay. As a child, some tragic deaths happened in the family of OSL member Delaine Shay, including her dad accidentally backing the car over her brother. As an adult, Delaine faced more losses and made some wrong choices trying to deal with them.



In her memoir, Delaine writes about the trials she faced and how, the harder she tried to find solutions, the more frustrating her life became. The day after she realized she was addicted to alcohol, Delaine awoke with a clear sensation of being cradled like a baby in

the arms of her Heavenly Father. As she wrote her memoir, with God at her side, Delaine learned to "walk in peace and not in pieces."

Delaine will speak and sign copies of *And Then, We Laughed* at OSL on January 13, in the Celebrate Center.

Additional New Titles for Adults

- *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris
- *Kingdom of the Blind* by Louise Penny
- *Night of Miracles* by Elizabeth Berg

New Chapter, Early Reader, and Picture Books

Ivy + Bean: One Big Happy Family by Annie Barrows. Ivy's worried.



She's read a lot of books about only children, so she knows that they are sometimes spoiled rotten. They don't share their toys. They never do any work. They scream and cry when they don't get their way.

Spoiler alert! Ivy doesn't have any brothers or sisters. That's why she's worried. How can she keep from getting spoiled? She could give away all her clothes, but she'd probably get in trouble.

She could give away all her toys, but she likes her toys.

There's really only one solution: she needs a baby sister, on the double! Luckily, Ivy and Bean know just where to get one.

Additional New Chapter Books

- *Chicken Squad: Into the Wild* by Doreen Cronin
- *Magic Tree House: Abe Lincoln at Last* by Mary Pope Osborne

New Early Reader Books

- *Pete the Cat: Play Ball* by James Dean
- *Don't Throw It to Mo* by David A. Adler

New Picture Books

- *I Don't Want to Go to Sleep* by Dev Petty
- *What Should Danny Do?* by Adir Levy

OSL Library Online Catalog

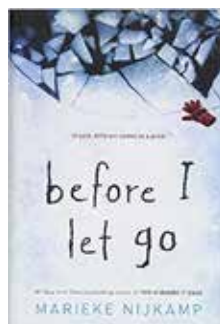
Anyone may access the OSL Library's online catalog, OPAC, to search for items, see a carousel of new books, read snapshots of featured books, access tutorials for using OPAC, view Library news and messages, and more. If you've provided your e-mail address, you may view your personal OPAC account to reserve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

Before I Go by Marieke Nijkamp. Best friends Corey and Kyra were



inseparable in their snow-covered town of Lost Creek, Alaska. When Corey moves away, she makes Kyra promise to stay strong during the long, dark winter, and wait for her return.

Just days before Corey is to return home to visit, Kyra dies. Corey is devastated and confused. The entire community of Lost Creek speaks in hushed tones about the town's lost daughter, saying her death was meant to be. They push Corey away like

she's a stranger.

Corey knows something is wrong. With every hour, her suspicion grows. Lost is keeping secrets chilling secrets. Piecing together the truth about what happened to her best friend may prove as difficult as lighting the sky in an Alaskan winter...

Additional New Titles for Middle- and High-School

- *The Honest Truth* by Dan Gemeinhart
- *Crush* by Svetlana Chmakova
- *The Titan's Curse: The Graphic Novel* by Rick Riordan

Warm up with a Good Book!



Photo by Gui Avelar on Unsplash

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.

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.



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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

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

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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. The pages of this newsletter tell that story in more depth. Thank you for your faithfulness in giving and your passionate commitment to God's work through this congregation. Your continued generosity helps us reach our congregational goal of fully funding our ministry of connecting faith to everyday life.

Ministry Support through November 30

Annual Giving

Pledged	\$1,849,306
Received YTD	\$1,689,049
Remaining	\$160,257
Projected YTD	\$1,630,608
Ahead/(Behind)	\$ 58,441