In Church and Community

From the Senior Pastor
He’s Coming Home!

“…his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him.”

Luke 15:20b

These words are part of one of the best known stories in all of scripture, the story Jesus told about a man who had two sons. For us, the story has become a beloved example of the gracious nature of our loving God. Though the youngest son in the story turned his back on his father and the home of his growing-up years, the father eagerly awaited his son’s return and welcomed him with open arms when he finally came to his senses.

It’s not a perfect match, but for me, this summer, there is a similar thread of anticipation running through my life. Since last September our son, Tom, has been serving his seminary internship at Luther House Chapel in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. His experience has been extraordinary in many ways: the congregation welcomed him as one of their own, exemplifying hospitality in so many ways; he was given ample opportunity to preach and lead worship when his supervising pastor was on a three-month sabbatical that lasted well into Lent; his theological perspective has been broadened by the witness of those whose history and traditions follow a much different trajectory than his own; and the challenges associated with living as a single white American male in a Muslim-majority southeast Asian culture have helped him mature in ways that likely would not have happened had he been assigned an internship in the ELCA somewhere in the Midwest. I could not be more proud of the young man he has become, of how he embraced this opportunity with his whole being, and how he navigated all of it with a sense of adventure, thoughtfulness, and grace.

With the arrival of August, though, comes the time I’ve been looking forward to all year long—Tom returns home on August 16. He’ll be flying into Sioux Falls and I fully anticipate that reunion to be one of great joy, complete with plenty of tears and long embraces and that awkward giddiness that leaves you with both a smile you simply cannot wipe off your face and nothing to say because there are just so many things you want to talk about.

I can only imagine what the father in Jesus’ story had running through his mind as he embraced his long lost son, but in his response of welcome and love I see and feel how none of that

Stella Curry

“For here we have no lasting city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.”

Hebrews 13:14

Our Savior’s long-time office manager, Stella Curry, died on July 16. At her request, a family-only memorial service will be held in Texas.

To say that Stella will be missed by the OSL community is a great understatement: she already has been missed, and deeply. But we give thanks to God for Stella’s dedicated and faithful service to the mission and ministry of Our Savior’s and entrust her into God’s eternal keeping. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.
mattered. The only thing that mattered in that reunion was the touch of the one you loved, the familiar smell of the one you swaddled as a baby, and the sweet sound of his voice saying, “I love you, Dad.”

I believe this is the level of intimacy Jesus was trying to convey in his story as he described how God feels about each one of us. He knows us better than we know ourselves. He lovingly affords us the freedom to live as we so choose. And he longs for and looks forward to those moments when we come to our senses and realize that running back (or waking up, as in the case of the older son in Jesus’ story) to God’s abundant and unconditional love is the only way we will ever experience the fullness of life God intends for each of us.

Summer can be a time when we are reunited with those we love. In all of those reunions, even the messy ones, may we be reminded of our God who is eagerly awaiting to welcome us with open arms regardless of where we’ve been or what we’ve done. And may that assurance restore in us the confidence we need to live as God’s beloved children each and every day.

In Christ’s love,

Pr. Randy Gehring

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**Kick-Off Sunday**

**Bake Sale**

A bake sale will be held at OSL on Kick-Off Sunday, to benefit the Hope Coalition in its efforts to ensure that every child gets a chance to attend preschool. Put it on your calendar: September 8!

Want to do some baking? Sign up at the Church Office, 336-2942.
A Note from
Pr. Sami Johnson
Thank you for the benefit of 14 weeks of parental leave following the birth of my daughter, Susanna. This was a tender and precious season of bonding together and savoring each little milestone she met in those early weeks. It was also a vital period of recovery and rest in the midst of caring for a newborn. I will never forget that time we were able to share together.

I am especially grateful to the pastoral team, the faith formation team, the whole OSL staff, and the volunteers who took care of my regular responsibilities in my absence.

Susanna Johnson on a lazy summer day.

The Art of Letting Go: OSL Women’s Fall Retreat
The OSL Women’s Fall Retreat will be held at Inspiration Hills, near Inwood, Iowa, from 6:30 p.m. on Friday, September 13, until 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 14. Women of all ages and stages are invited to get away for a weekend of relaxation, fellowship, prayer, and learning organizing and lifestyle-management tips.

Ashlee Ferguson, from Queen City Concierge, will speak on “The Art of Letting Go: Tackling the Clutter” and “Home Life Balancing Act.” Ashlee is an expert on organization, home management, estate sales, waiting services, and so much more.

Space is limited, so register before August 25. There are many housing options available; see oslchurch.com/events for online registration and complete details, or stop by the Information Center. Questions? Contact Janiece Peterson, janiecelpeterson@live.com.

Ashlee Ferguson, Queen City Concierge.
Our Savior’s Staff Directory

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

Don’t Miss the Last Blast!

Come and tailgate with your OSL friends at this year’s final Summer Blast, OSL Tailgate, on August 7!

In the spirit of a tailgate, OSL will provide walking tacos, and you are invited to pull up your car, your lawn chairs, pop-up tent, yard games, and tailgating gear, and bring a dessert, side, or non-alcoholic beverage to share.

Sign up at the Information Center or visit http://bit.ly/2Z5v98J to reserve your tailgating spots in the lot. Food, fun, and music by Short Notice will start at 5:00; outdoor worship will be at 6:30. Bring a friend!

But wait—there’s more: Middle schoolers are invited to the Bonus Blast, beginning at noon, and high-schoolers are invited to the Fire Pit, at 7:00, and friends are always welcome!
Giving Is Like Golfing…

“…the more you do it, the better you become.”

Those words were part of a recent conversation with a friend and fellow member of OSL. It was not the pathway I intended to traverse with this month’s thoughts, but I think she was spot on. You see, both are learned choices. Like many activities in which we participate, practice makes us better. Around these parts, we are “weather restricted” when it comes to golf, so many golfers I know begin the season as early as possible and push it to the limits in the fall for one last round. Those who want to get better even spend time on the practice range!

Giving, on the other hand, isn’t limited by Mother Nature, and certainly isn’t seasonal. In fact, the recent change in the tax law has given us new freedoms with the expansion of the standard deduction. Since nearly 90% of taxpayers take the standard deduction, we no longer need to fret about keeping track of our gifts and are free to give wherever and whenever we wish. Of course, there are exceptions, so everyone should (as always) consult with their tax advisors.

Take a moment to look around at the many places that need our gifts. The hungry in need of nourishment, the homeless in need of shelter, the lonely in need of companionship, the youth in need of instruction, and the lost in need of a combination of assistance.

As it goes with golf, every shot adds up—a 300-yard drive counts the same as a two-inch putt—and so it is with giving, too: all gifts count. Don’t think so? Just ask the recipient of your benevolence!

So, whether or not you like golf, why not take up giving? You will be filling up more than a scorecard.

Let’s talk! You may reach me, Jon Oien, at 212-5261 or joien@sio.midco.net. Shalom!

Photo by Court Prather on Unsplash.
A Ministry of Presence

OSL Caring Friends are volunteers who reach out monthly to members residing in care facilities in the Sioux Falls area. This ministry program was created as an opportunity to minister to those who can no longer participate in worship and fellowship opportunities, to make them feel connected and remind them they are a vital part of their church family.

Through phone calls, mail, personal visits, and prayer, Caring Friends extend the Love of Christ to those who may find themselves alone or disconnected. This outreach is an essential part of OSL’s mission: Connecting Faith to Everyday Life.

You are invited to be part of the Caring Friends Ministry Team, and serve as a living reminder of God’s presence and love! Plan now to attend a Caring Friends meeting on Thursday, September 19, at 1:00 p.m., in the Conference Room. Can’t make it? Contact Pr. Tim Lemme (336-2942, ext. 19, or tlemme@oslchurch.com) or Deb Harlan (336-2942, ext. 48, or dharlan@oslchurch.com.)

Caring Friend Joanie Nelsen visits with Arlis Eiesland, who recently celebrated her 99th birthday.

A Morning in the Garden

OSL members were treated to a lovely summer morning’s garden party in the Healing Garden on July 21. Thanks to the tireless efforts of Healing Garden volunteers, plus lots of rain and sunshine, everything was in full bloom.

If you haven’t enjoyed the tranquility of the Healing Garden recently, be sure to visit soon! Even just a few minutes among God’s colorful plants creations are sure to refresh and renew you.

Would you like to help tend the Healing Garden? Contact Deb Harlan, 336-2942, ext. 48, or dharlan@oslchurch.com.
Caring Ministries

OSL Woodshop Ministry: Reaching beyond Our Walls

The other day I decided to explore a new sawmill that just opened down by Lennox. As most of you know, I’m a woodworker, so I was out looking for some rough-cut lumber to build a table for my wife.

While there, I introduced myself to the owner and enjoyed a nice conversation with him while looking over the collection of wood products he had to offer. During the course of our conversation, I shared with him that we had a woodshop at the church where I serve as a pastor. His response was immediate: “Oh, is that the church by Augustana College?” (I still have trouble remembering “University” myself)

The owner shared with me that he had heard about the OSL woodshop and was impressed that we had such a ministry to offer to our members. I told him what our woodshop ministry was all about: a “hands-on” ministry that serves the needs of our congregation, our community, and the larger church. It was wonderful to hear that day how this congregation’s ministry is known by the people outside our walls.

Oftentimes we take for granted just how far-reaching our ministry is. People we haven’t even met sometimes know who we are, and some of the ways in which our ministry touches the lives of people around us. We are a blessed congregation indeed, with a variety of gifts and ministries that make a difference.

Thank you, all of you, for being part of the ministry we share together here at OSL!

—Pr. Tim Lemme

Lunch, Look, and Learn

Curious about senior community living options in the area? Join Michelle Anderson, Faith Community Nurse, for Lunch, Look, and Learn, group tours of a local facility, which include a free lunch. Here’s the upcoming schedule; all meet at 11:30 A.M.:

- B free Our House, August 14 (RSVP by August 12); Prince of Peace, August 21 (RSVP by August 19); Sunnycrest, August 28 (RSVP by August 26); Grand Living at Lake Lorraine, September 11 (RSVP by September 9); Trail Ridge, September 18 (RSVP by September 16); Inn on Westport, September 25 (RSVP by September 23).

Registration is required, so contact Michelle by the dates indicated: mianderson@oslchurch.com or 336-2942, ext. 28.

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, August 7, 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, August 14 and 28, 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 with Alzheimer’s and dementia, a place to share and to receive understanding and empathy. Contact Caring Ministries, 336-2942, for information.
June was a busy month for Our Savior’s youth, who have been doing God’s work with their hands in many ways. June 15 through 22, 17 youth and seven adults ventured out to Rainbow Trails Lutheran Camp in Colorado for a week of backpacking, hiking, and whitewater rafting with God in the Rocky Mountains. The beautiful mountains gave them the opportunity to connect with God as well as nature. The week was full of laughter and fellowship, overcoming challenges that the mountains held, and growing closer to God.

One major challenge was the ever-changing weather because of the higher elevation—we encountered snow, hail, and rain on a single day’s hike. The memory that I will hold onto is not the cold, but the way the students embraced the change. When the rain came, we laughed under the trees. When the trail turned into snow, we sang songs together. When the hiking path came into contact with the river, we worked together to help everyone safely cross. Kindness and compassion overflowed from all the youth as they each made an important contribution to our team.

While reflecting on the week, students talked about the trip being an eye-opening experience. They spoke of learning and seeing God in the people around them. They talked about how the hike on the mountain strengthened their relationship with God, and how being in nature, away from distractions, helped them make lifelong friendships.

As this is written, OSL youth are on their trip to Duluth for service work and connecting with God in beautiful Northern Minnesota. There will be many stories of the students’ next adventure in God’s glorious creation.

By the time a child is three, he or she has heard about 45 million words, but how many of those are faith words? Science tells us that a gap between baptism and traditional Sunday School means we would miss integrating the Hope of their life into their infant/toddler brain when it is most formative. Frolic eliminates that gap while empowering you as a parent. It gives you the tools to interact with your child and pass on the faith without being a “religious expert.”

In Frolic, you and your child come to hear a short faith story, then journey to age-appropriate interactive stations (infant and toddler) that infuse faith into everyday play—a choose-your-own-adventure experience!

Unlike Rotation and Connect Sunday School, you do not need to stay until 10:50 A.M. The idea is for you to experience Frolic without your infant or toddler fizzling out. So, once you’ve done all you wanted to for the week, you are free to go.

In addition to take-home classroom items, you will receive a monthly newsletter highlighting age and faith development for your child, so be sure to register online for Frolic (oslchurch.com/children) to ensure your email is in the system.

Once your child turns four, he or she may begin Rotation Sunday School.
If this happens during the Frolic year, you may decide after your child’s birthday if you want to complete the year in Frolic or have your child move to rotation. One way is not better than the other.

Frolic does not meet on the first Sunday of each month, allowing you to attend Sabbath Seekers coffee and conversation in Fellowship Hall. The opportunity for parents to congregate in the Frolic room and in Sabbath Seekers will allow you to meet and develop relationships with other OSL parents in the same phase of life.

Frolic will kick off with a Creation Story Party on September 8, at 10:00 a.m., on the lower level. Interactive stations, cherished smiles, and treasured moments await!

Welcome to Church Milestone
August 18 is the Welcome to Church milestone for two-year-olds and their families. Your family will enjoy a light lunch together and get information on the scavenger hunt you will then embark on throughout the building. At each key location, your two-year-old will pick up a puzzle piece and have his or her picture taken. The photos will then be used to create personalized book for your family to keep. This timeless treasure will tell your child that they are loved in this space.

The milestone will begin at 11:30 a.m. and be done no later than 1:00 p.m. Your entire family is welcome to participate! Sign up by August 11 through the SignUpGenius link you received via email, or contact Melissa Nesdahl, Director of Faith Formation (mnesdahl@oslchurch.com), to let her know how many in your family will be attending and your two-year-old’s name.

OSL Youth and Family Day at Wild Water West
Come for an evening of fun in the sun on Wednesday, August 14, from 4:00 to 8:00! There will be a live DJ and Wild Water West prize giveaways at a special price! Admission for those 48 inches tall or taller will be $7.50 plus tax; under 48 inches and seniors will be $4 plus tax; and children under age two will be free.

Children grade five and younger must have a parent or caring adult present. If you plan to drop off your sixth- through 12th-grader and would like them to check in and out with Youth Director John Schomberg, email him in advance: jschomberg@oslchurch.com.

Register for Frolic, Sunday School, and Wednesday School
Registration for the 2018–2019 Frolic, Sunday School, and Wednesday School year is now live! Visit oslchurch.com/children and follow the applicable links.

It is important that every parent or caring adult register each child every year, so OSL has current contact information and you are ensured of receiving the proper age-specific mailings during the year.

Frolic is for children from birth through three, with their parents, and meets on Sundays except for the first Sunday of the month. Rotation Sunday School is for children age four through third grade, and is offered on Sundays and Wednesdays. Connect is for fourth- and fifth-graders, and is available on Sundays and Wednesdays. Students are divided by age level on Sundays, whereas there is one Rotation group and one Connect class on Wednesdays, due to class sizes. The program is the same on both days.

Be sure to register before Kick-Off Sunday, which is September 8. Wednesday School will begin on September 11. It’s going to be a wonderful year!

Theology Tapped
If you’re looking for engaging conversation on matters of faith and life in a fun, informal setting—and who isn’t?—join Pr. Randy for Theology Tapped! The next get-together will be on Thursday, August 22, from 8:00 to 9:30 p.m., at Monk’s House of Ale Repute, 420 E. 8th St.
Summer One Church One Read

The Library Committee has selected *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens as its Summer One Church One Read title. Copies are available for checkout in the Library. The discussion is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on September 22.

For years, rumors of the “Marsh Girl” have haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet town on the North Carolina coast. In late 1969, when handsome Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya Clark, the so-called Marsh Girl.

Sensitive and intelligent, Kya has survived for years alone in the marsh that she calls home, finding friends in the gulls and lessons in the sand. But the time comes when she yearns to be touched and loved. When two young men from town become intrigued by her wild beauty, Kya opens herself to a new life until the unthinkable happens.

*Where the Crawdads Sing* is an exquisite ode to the natural world, a heartbreaking coming-of-age story, and a surprising tale of possible murder. Owens reminds us that we are forever shaped by the children we once were, and that we are all subject to the beautiful and violent secrets that nature keeps.

Second Saturday Movie Is on Summer Vacation!

The Second Saturday Movies are on break, but will return on September 14 with *Breakthrough*.

When Joyce Smith’s 14-year-old son John fell through an icy Missouri lake one winter morning, she and her family had seemingly lost everything. At the hospital, John lay lifeless for more than 60 minutes, but Joyce was not ready to give up on her son. She mustered all her faith and strength into one force and cried out to God in a loud voice to save him. Miraculously, her son’s heart immediately started beating again.

*Breakthrough* is about a profound truth: prayer really does work. God uses it to remind us that God is always with us, and when we combine it with unshakable faith, nothing is impossible.

Make a day of it on September 14, 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 August 22 selection will be *Milkman* by Anna Burns.

In an unnamed city, middle sister stands out for the wrong reasons. She reads while walking, for one, and she has been taking French night classes downtown.

When a local paramilitary known as the Milkman begins pursuing her; she suddenly becomes “interesting,” the last thing she ever wanted to be. Despite middle sister’s attempts to avoid him—and to keep her mother from finding out about her maybe-boyfriend—rumors spread and the threat of violence lingers.

*Milkman* is a story of the way inaction can have enormous repercussions, in a time when the wrong flag, wrong religion, or even a sunset can be subversive. Told with ferocious energy and sly, wicked humor, *Milkman* establishes Anna Burns as one of the most consequential voices of our day.

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

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 Adults

Rooms by James L. Rubart. On a rainy spring day in Seattle, young software tycoon Micah Taylor receives a cryptic, 25-year-old letter from a great-uncle he never knew. It claims a home awaits him on the Oregon coast that will turn his world inside out.

Suspecting a prank, Micah arrives at Cannon Beach to discover a stunning brand new 9,000 square-foot house. After meeting Sarah Sabin at a nearby ice-cream shop, he has two reasons to visit the beach every weekend.

When bizarre things start happening in the rooms of the home, Micah suspects they have some connection to his new friend, Rick, the town mechanic. Rick will only say the house is spiritual.

This unnerves Micah because his faith slipped away like the tide years ago, and he wants to keep it that way. But as he slowly discovers, the home isn’t just spiritual, it’s a physical manifestation of his soul, which God uses to heal Micah’s darkest wounds and lead him into an astonishing new destiny.

Additional New Titles for Adults

- The Printed Letter Bookshop by Katherine Reay
- Summer of ’69 by Erin Hilderbrand
- The Man He Never Was by James L. Rubart

New for Middle- and High-School Youth

Theodore Boone: The Accomplice by John Grisham. Theo has been worried about his good friend Woody Lambert. Woody is struggling at school and making bad choices. When Woody is arrested—an unwitting accomplice to armed robbery—Theo knows he is innocent.

Racing the clock while Woody sits in jail, Theo will do everything in his power to help his friend and save Woody from an unforgiving system where justice is not equal for all. Brimming with the intrigue and suspense that made John Grisham an international bestselling author and undisputed master of the modern legal thriller, Theodore Boone’s trials and triumphs will keep readers hooked until the very last page.

Additional New Titles for Middle- and High-School Youth

- The 104-Story Treehouse by Andy Griffiths
- Endling: The First by Katherine Applegate
- Shouting at the Rain by Lynda Mullany Hunt

New Picture, Early Reader, and Chapter Books

Roscoe the Rascal Goes to Camp by Shana Gorian. Ten-year-old James and his seven-year-old sister, Mandy, are off to summer camp with their loyal German shepherd, Rosco. While Mandy struggles with homesickness, James’s week is threatened by a prank-playing bunkmate’s antics.

During an unexpected thunderstorm in a game of capture the flag, the prankster finds himself lost and alone deep inside the forest. Rosco must play the hero and save the boy, but not before he and James teach him a hard-earned lesson about friendship.

Additional New Chapter Books

- Zoey and Sassafras: Unicorns and Germs by Asia Citro
- Eerie Elementary: The End of Orson Eerie? by Jack Chabert

New Early Reader Books

- Fancy Nancy: Potpourri of Books by Jane O’Connor
- Henry and Mudge Take the Big Test by Cynthia Rylant

New Picture Books

- Even Superheroes Have Bad Days by Shelly Becker
- Forever Friends Club by Gaurav Bhatnagar

OSL Library

OSL Library Hours

Sunday—
8:30 A.M.—noon
Monday—
9:00 A.M.—noon
Tuesday—
9:00 A.M.—noon
Wednesday—
9:00 A.M.—3:00 P.M.
Thursday—
9:00 A.M.—noon
Friday—
Closed
2nd Saturday of the Month—
10:00 A.M.—noon,
4:30—6:30 P.M.
August 2019

The Monthly Newsletter of Our Savior’s Lutheran Church

Summer Worship Services (through Labor Day)
Saturday Evening – 5:00 p.m., Sanctuary
Sunday Morning
  Celebrate Worship – 8:45 and 10:30 a.m., Celebrate Center
  Festive Worship – 10:00 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)
Website: oslchurch.com
Social Media: twitter.com/oslchurchsf · facebook.com/oslchurchsf ·
youtube.com/oslchurchsf

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 June 30
Projected Contributions $1,969,580
Received YTD $961,348
Remaining $1,008,232
Projected YTD $1,065,393
Ahead/(Behind) ($104,045)