

# The *intercom* In Church and Community



## From the Senior Pastor Partners in Ministry



Dear partners in ministry,

While we use the term “partners in ministry” often around here, we do not use it lightly. At the core of who we are as a church is this understanding that God has entrusted to *all of us* who are members of Our Savior's this mission to proclaim Christ and nurture faith that connects

to everyday life. Each of us contributes to this mission as we share our gifts of time, talent, and treasure. Thank you for your partnership and for your ongoing support of this ministry we share.

In addition, we also support over two dozen mission partnerships with money from our annual ministry plan (budget), time from our people, and special seasonal and on-demand offerings.

We strive to do more than simply write a check for these mission partners. We support them in prayer, we invite their fellowship in worship and service, and we uplift their causes in our community because we believe their success is our own. To find out more about our partners, check out the helpful guide on our website, [oslchurch.com/partnerships](http://oslchurch.com/partnerships).

### How do we choose our partners and projects?

We carefully curate our mission partnerships each year. We shape our commitments based on a few principles:

- *Supporting the world, supporting our mission.* Each partnership must clearly express one or more of our core values:

Worship, Service, Learning, Community, and Generosity.

- *Motivating the whole congregation.* Rather than pursue one person's passion project or personal interest, we choose projects that the entire congregation can engage and sustain.
- *Impact without duplication.* As neighbors fully invested in the community of Sioux Falls, we strategically choose projects that are most needed by our community without duplicating services provided elsewhere.
- *Lasting Change.* When possible, we choose partnerships that allow us to address deeper issues in our community rather than simply treat symptoms of larger problems. For instance, our Campus Cupboard serves immediate hunger needs for college students while working to permanently end food insecurity issues in the campus community.
- *Care for those we serve.* We do not decide what others need; we work with our partners to support the work they know best.

In this edition of *The Intercom*, you will read about one of our mission partners, Susan B. Anthony Elementary School, and the impact we are making through that partnership. Please continue to hold them and all of our mission partners in your prayers, give generously to them when invited, and consider how you might engage one or more of them as you connect your faith to daily life.

Grateful for your partnership,

Pr. Randy Gehring

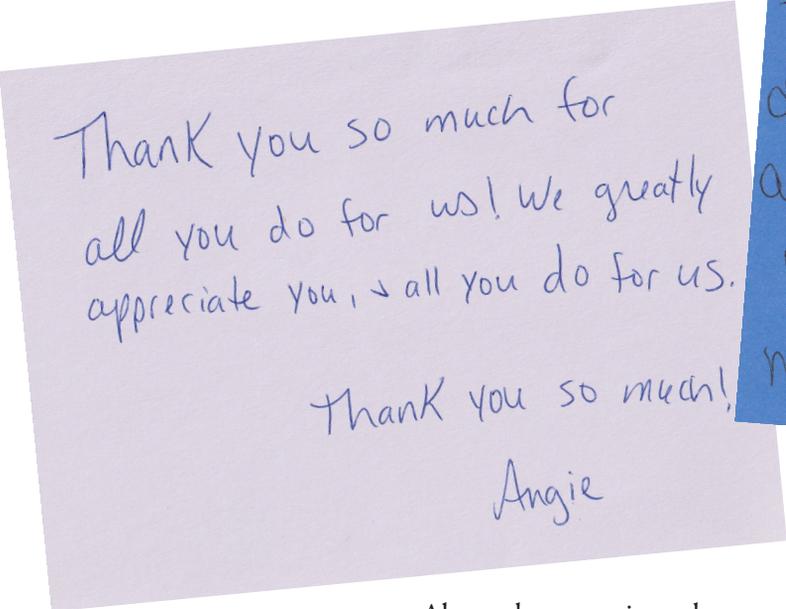
## Ministry Spotlight

# Ministry Partnership: Susan B. Anthony Elementary School

Maybe you've heard of the cheese sandwich.

Shortly after I moved to Sioux Falls in 2018, I began to hear about the cheese sandwich. This very simple sandwich of bread and cheese was provided to children whose school lunch accounts ran out of money. The cheese sandwich was a code. If you were eating that cheese sandwich, every kid knew your family couldn't pay the lunch bill. In some places, kids received a hand stamp of a dollar sign instead of the sandwich.

I also heard about organizations in town that raised money to cover the balance so no kid had to receive the cheese sandwich.



Thank you so much for  
all you do for us! We greatly  
appreciate you, & all you do for us.

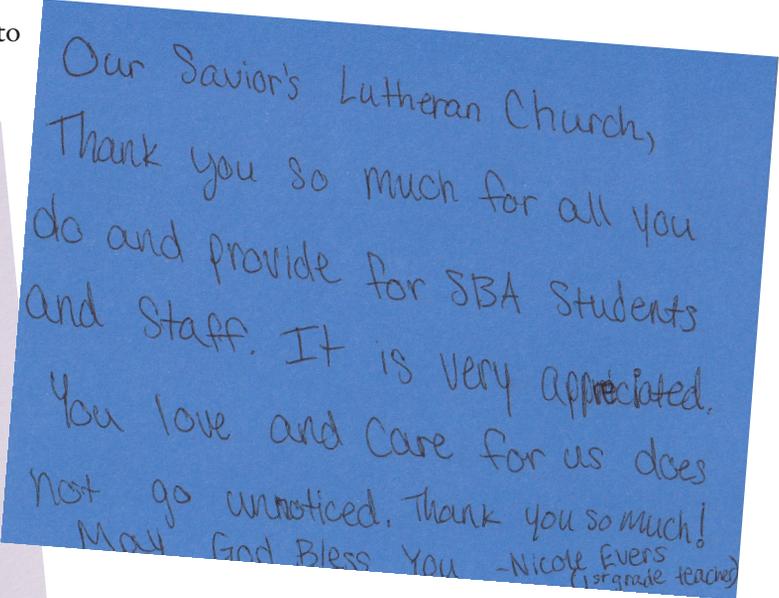
Thank you so much!  
Angie

About the same time, there was a movement in area churches to partner with schools. Partner churches would work alongside teachers, staff, and students to support their kids. The challenge was simple. We had already seen how business owners supported local school-children. How could area churches step up their game?

Emphasis went to establishing church-school partnerships with Title I schools—schools that receive the most federal funding to offset the deepest poverty in that part of our community.

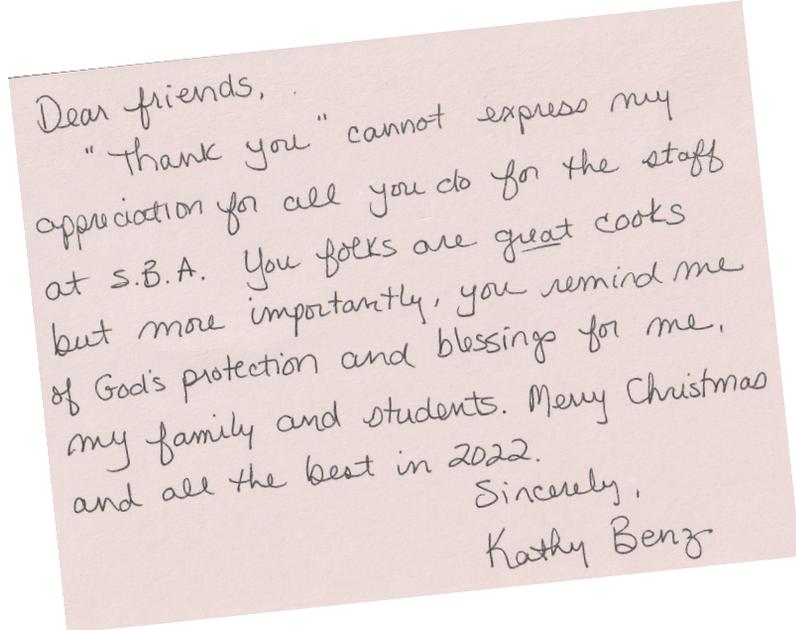
Partnerships with Title I schools filled up *fast*, and often schools tried to juggle more than one church partner. Churches wanted to help the schools with the *greatest* need. Schools juggled several church partnerships, struggling to find something meaningful to offer to each. Or churches competed with each other for airtime and appreciation of the staff.

It was about then that OS� member Nancy Krueger, who had retired as a principal from Laura Wilder Elementary School, reached out to me with her own vision for a school partnership between OS� and another school. We took our time, establishing guidelines for the relationship. We dedicated ourselves to build meaningful relationships, to choose reasonable projects, and to pace ourselves so we didn't burn out before we could actually help the school.



Our Savior's Lutheran Church,  
Thank you so much for all you  
do and provide for SBA Students  
and Staff. It is very appreciated.  
Your love and care for us does  
not go unnoticed. Thank you so much!  
May God Bless You -Nicole Evers  
(1st grade teacher)

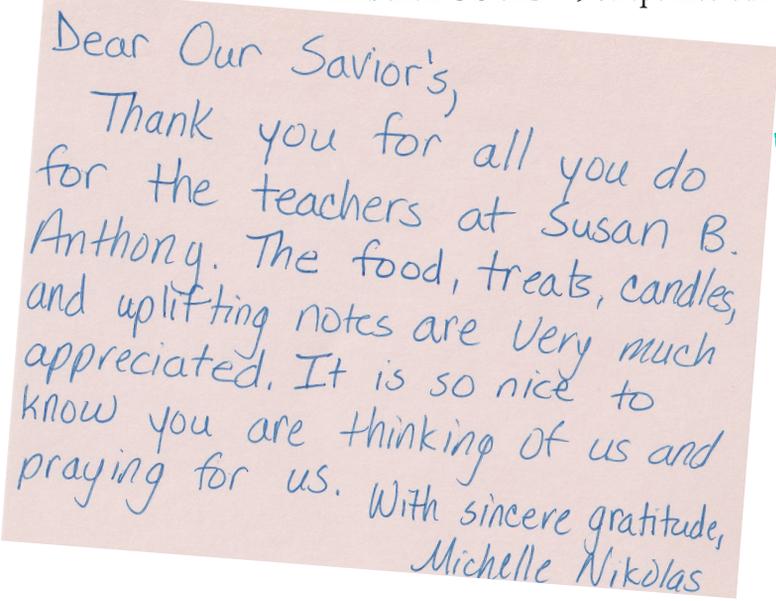
Nancy, making use of her contacts in the school district, helped steer us toward Susan B. Anthony Elementary School, and it was the perfect fit. The school was not a Title I school, but it features a wide range of demographics in the student body. Geographically, it's very close to Our Savior's. And, most importantly, thanks to Nancy we established a strong rapport with the administration at the school.



Dear friends,  
"Thank you" cannot express my  
appreciation for all you do for the staff  
at S.B.A. You folks are *great* cooks  
but more importantly, you remind me  
of God's protection and blessings for me,  
my family and students. Merry Christmas  
and all the best in 2022.  
Sincerely,  
Kathy Benz

We were ready to launch our partnership. We planned congregation-school activities, visits from parishioners to the school's coffee cart, mentoring...

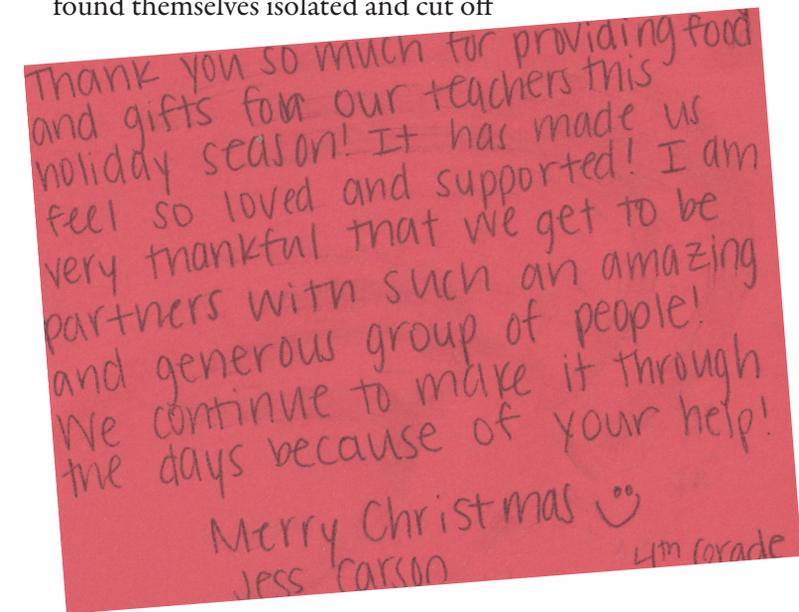
And then COVID-19 swept into our



Dear Our Savior's,  
Thank you for all you do for the teachers at Susan B. Anthony. The food, treats, candles, and uplifting notes are very much appreciated. It is so nice to know you are thinking of us and praying for us. With sincere gratitude,  
Michelle Nikolas

community. Everything turned upside down.

Teachers had to relearn everything about their jobs. Students found themselves isolated and cut off



Thank you so much for providing food and gifts for our teachers this holiday season! It has made us feel so loved and supported! I am very thankful that we get to be partners with such an amazing and generous group of people! We continue to make it through the days because of your help!  
Merry Christmas ☺  
Jess Carson 4th grade

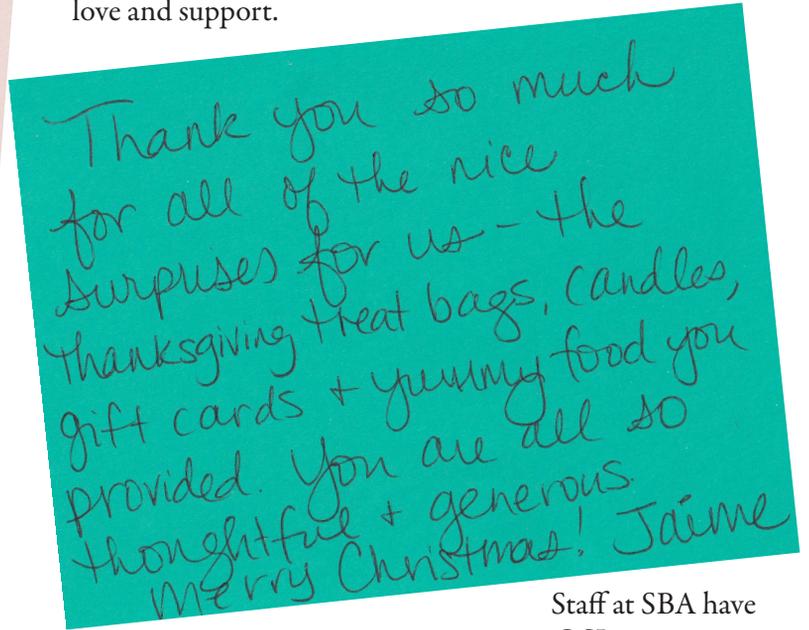
from the steady support and rhythm of the school week.

We quickly adapted, showing appreciation and serving meals to the staff. That fall, our quilters made thousands of masks for the students. Since, we have settled into a regular rhythm of support at the school.

We offer regular conference lunches and dinners for the staff.

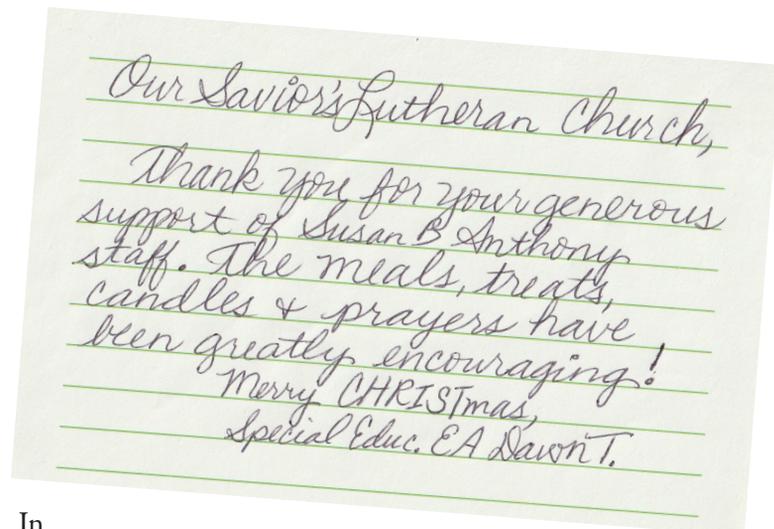
A small ministry team meets monthly to create care packages and appreciation gifts for every member of the staff.

And, at long last, we have begun to train mentors through Lutheran Social Services to visit the school weekly and build relationships with children who need that additional layer of love and support.



Thank you so much for all of the nice surprises for us - the Thanksgiving treat bags, candles, gift cards + yummy food you provided. You are all so thoughtful + generous. Merry Christmas! Jaime

Staff at SBA have come to recognize OSL as a primary partner in their work. They reach out to us when they notice children with particular needs in their classrooms. We have purchased coats and snow pants. We buy every child books and fresh fruit.



Our Savior's Lutheran Church,  
Thank you for your generous support of Susan B. Anthony staff. The meals, treats, candles & prayers have been greatly encouraging!  
Merry CHRISTmas,  
Special Educ. EA Dawn T.

In the process, we follow Christ's command to love and serve our neighbor.

And the teachers and staff have taught us more about our community than we could have ever discovered on our own.

—Pr. Justin Kosec

See more lovely notes from our SBA friends at [oslchurch.com/photos/](http://oslchurch.com/photos/)



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Sioux Falls, SD 57105

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LUTHERAN CHURCH (605) 336-2942  
www.oslchurch.com

INTERCOM (USPS311210)  
Published monthly by:  
Our Savior's Lutheran Congregation  
909 West 33rd Street, Sioux Falls, SD 57105  
Periodicals Postage Paid at Sioux Falls, South Dakota  
POSTMASTER:  
Please send address change to INTERCOM,  
909 West 33rd Street, Sioux Falls, SD 57105

# The *intercom* February 2022

## In Church and Community

*A Publication of Our Savior's Lutheran Church*

### Worship Services

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

Sunday Morning

Celebrate Worship – 8:45 and 11:00 A.M., Celebrate Center

Festive Worship – 8:45 and 11:00 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),

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

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

### Social Media

[twitter.com/oslchurchsf](https://twitter.com/oslchurchsf) ♦ [facebook.com/oslchurchsf](https://facebook.com/oslchurchsf) ♦

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

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Offering plate photo via Backgrounddownload.com

## GENEROUSLY SHARING YOUR MONEY STORY

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

### Ways to Give

First Fruits Giving –  
electronic contributions

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

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

Learn more at [oslchurch.com/giving](http://oslchurch.com/giving)