

# The *Intercom* In Church and Community



## From the Senior Pastor Fall Is in the Air

As the calendar turns to August—even if the weather still feels very summery—there is a shift that begins to occur in our lives that leads us toward the fall. Back-to-School sales are everywhere. Families are charting out strategies for getting everyone to where they need to go when new schedules start in earnest. The cicadas join in a late-summer chorus reminding us that leaves will soon be changing color, days will keep getting shorter, and harvest will soon be upon us. And the days spent at our favorite summer locales become fewer and fewer as a new rhythm begins to exert itself on our daily and weekly routines.



The same is true here at church. We so enjoy our time together during the summer. Outdoor worship and Summer Blasts are hallmarks of congregational life at Our Savior's, as is welcoming visiting family members and other folks on various holiday jaunts that bring them through Sioux Falls.

But this time of year is when planning for fall ministry is at its peak. Curriculum for Sunday School and Confirmation is being finalized and calls are being extended to caring adults to serve as faith formation mentors to our children and youth. Various groups that have taken a break during the summer are reorganizing for the fall. New groups are being envisioned as outgrowths of our strategic plan and our desire to be a "church of substance." Opportunities to serve our neighbor are being reimaged. Worship planning is even extending into seasons like Advent and Christmas and the whole church prepares to take a step forward into what promises to be another great year of programming and ministry at Our Savior's.

This edition of *The Intercom* is dedicated to giving you a preview of what we have planned for the new program year. Turn the page and begin to envision when and where you might plug into the life of the congregation in ways that not only will take you deeper in your faith but also bring meaning and value to your life. Be open to how the Holy Spirit

*continued*



## Congregational Meeting

**Sunday, August 20**  
**11:45 A.M.**

**MID-YEAR  
UPDATE**



## Ministry Spotlight Autumn Is on the Way!

For everything there is a season, Ecclesiastes tells us, and if you've noticed a slight yellowish tinge on certain trees' leaves, or an increase in squirrels' activity, or any number of other clues, you'll know that autumn is soon to come. No matter what the thermometer might say currently!

And autumn means things ramp up again around Our Savior's (not that they every really slow down that much). At this point, dreams are still being dreamed and plans are still being planned, but here are some things to look forward to from OSL's various ministry areas!



► **Kick-Off Weekend** will be September 9 and 10, the

“official” start of OSL's new program year. As usual, a line-up of fun family activities will mark Kick-Off, celebrating the great year to come.

Kick-Off Sunday also marks the return of regular worship hours: Celebrate at 8:45 and 11:00 A.M., and Festive at 11:00 A.M. Saturday Festive worship will remain at 5:00 P.M.

► Pr. Randy Gehring cites **two specific ministries** he's especially anticipating:  
♦ *A weekly adult bible study* on Wednesday evenings that will focus on specific books and/or themes in scripture. Pr. Randy envisions “a fellowship-based learning opportunity that includes a simple meal (maybe potluck), large-group teaching, and small-group conversation.”

♦ *Icons in Transformation*, a museum-quality art exhibit that will be present at OSL in October and November. This exhibit of works by the artist Ludmila Pawlowska will present unique opportunities to encounter the spiritual-

ity of traditional religious icons through contemporary art. Hosting the exhibit—which will feature 80 to 150 paintings, sculptures, installation art, and photographs of contemporary art inspired by traditional icons—will also provide numerous ways for OSL members and friends to volunteer, and it will invite the community to visit our church and become more familiar with Our Savior's as a “church of substance.” Works will be available for purchase, with sales benefitting Ukrainian refugees.

Watch for details about each of these opportunities. And learn more about Ludmila Pawlowska and *Icons in Transformation* at [ludmilapawlowska.se](http://ludmilapawlowska.se).

- After Labor Day, OSL's **Worship and Music Ministry** kicks back into high gear. Gene LeVasseur, Director of Worship, reminds everyone that all are welcome to join in these opportunities:
- ♦ *Joyful Noize* (for kids in grades three through five), meeting on Wednesday at 6:00 P.M.
  - ♦ *Celebrate Band*, rehearsing on Wednesdays at 7:00 P.M.
  - ♦ *Our Savior's Choir*, rehearsing on Sundays at 9:30 A.M.
  - ♦ *Bells of Our Savior's*, rehearsing on Tuesdays at 5:00 P.M.

For more information, contact Gene, [glevasseur@oslchurch.com](mailto:glevasseur@oslchurch.com) or 605-336-2942, ext. 40.

► “Quack quack, welcome back! Duck into the Library!”

Maybe you've already guessed that ducks will feature prominently in Kick-Off Weekend plans for the **OSL Library**. Why a duck? You'll have to stop in and ask! Other reasons to stop in include a variety of activities planned for the first Wednesday evening of each month—*Movie Night*, *Poetry Night*, *Story Time in Your Jammies Night*, *short-story discussions*, and *author talks*. Stop by the Library often to see what's new and what's coming up!

► OSL's **Spiritual Care Ministry** will see the resumption of Wednesday evening *Woodshop Ministry*, at 6:00, in the wood-

shop (well, naturally). The team will continue to meet at 8:00 on Saturday mornings, as they've been doing all summer. Everyone is welcome, from experienced woodworkers to newbies!

*Mah-Jongg* will make a return to OSL, on Wednesdays from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M., in The Gathering Place. Again, all experience levels are welcome. Same for *Piece by Piece Quilting Group*, *Prayer Shawl Knitting Group*, and the *Healing Garden Team*: participants are always eager to share their knowledge with new members!

*Stephen Ministry*, *Bereavement Ministry*, and *Good Grief Group* will continue to provide care to those who are experiencing a difficult time. *Walking Wednesdays Wellness Group* will resume, as will monthly *Friendship Club* presentations. And don't forget the *Card Recycling* and *Conversation with God* groups!

Learn more by contacting Pr. Tim Lemme (605-336-2942, ext. 19, or [tlemme@oslchurch.com](mailto:tlemme@oslchurch.com)) or Ben Weins, Spiritual Care Coordinator (605-336-2942, ext. 28, or [bweins@oslchurch.com](mailto:bweins@oslchurch.com)).

► Pr. Justin Kosec and Youth Director Madelynn Skajewski have been hard at work planning this fall's **Youth and Family Ministry** programs. Registration for *High School Youth Ministry* and *Confirmation* (grades six through eight) are online now—be sure to sign up, if you haven't already! The same goes for Children's Ministry programs:

- ♦ *Frolic* (for kids from infants through age three)
- ♦ *Storybook Bible Rotation* (four-year-olds through grade three)
- ♦ *Connect* (fourth- and fifth-graders), and
- ♦ *Wednesday RAW Faith* (an at-home opportunity).

Sunday Education time is 10:00 to 10:50 A.M., beginning on September 10, on the lower level. High School Youth Group will be held on Sunday nights, from 7:00 to 9:00, in the Youth Room, starting on September 10. Confirmation classes begin on Wednesday, September 13, at 6:00 P.M., and meet weekly, in Fellowship Hall.

## ICONS IN TRANSFORMATION



### An Expressive Dialogue between the Temporal and the Eternal

Visit [oslchurch.com/youth-family](http://oslchurch.com/youth-family) for registration links!

Of course, more will be added as the program year continues—be sure to keep an eye on the OSL website ([oslchurch.com](http://oslchurch.com)) and the weekly update, *Coming up at OSL*, for details.

Meanwhile...time to start dreaming of pumpkin spice! ♦

*Images from Icons in Transformation by Ludmila Pawlowska.*

### From the Senior Pastor, continued from page 1

may be nudging you to try something new or to reengage at church after taking some time away. Together let's step boldly into fall here at Our Savior's with the expectation that God will meet us along the way and inspire, equip, and empower us to continue proclaiming Christ and nurturing faith that connects with everyday life to the glory of God.

See you in church,

*Randy*

Pr. Randy Gehring





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OUR SAVIOR'S  
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

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*A Publication of Our Savior's Lutheran Church*

## Worship Services

Saturday Evening – 5:00 P.M., Sanctuary  
Sunday Morning  
Celebrate Worship – 8:45 and 10:30 A.M., Celebrate Center  
Festive Worship – 10:15 A.M., Sanctuary

## Television and Internet

Celebrate: 9:00 A.M., KTTW (cable channel 9; channel 7.1)  
Festive: 1:00 P.M., KSCB (cable channel 30; channel 53),  
Facebook Live: 8:45 and 11:00 A.M.  
Website: [oslchurch.com](http://oslchurch.com)

## Social Media

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## *Your Offering Makes a Difference!*

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)*