



The *intercom*

In Church and Community

FROM PR. PAUL

This publication to the Our Savior's community is only peripherally related to the "Lent 101" article I offered to the congregation just prior to Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. Understandably, you may have chosen to keep Brussels sprouts in your Lenten table menu.* I'm sure God is good with that.

These weeks of Lent have seen well-received worship events and I thank the many of you who have expressed your gratitude for them. Lent is the liturgical season of the church when we seek the personal touch of Jesus upon us. I hope you have taken for your journey a Lenten nail as your daily reminder of the pain and suffering Jesus bore for you. In one church I served, a staff member chose to wear the nail in her shoe for the full 40 days. Then on Good Friday she wore it for the last time as the congregation worshipped at the foot of the cross of our dying Lord.

As we move into Holy Week, remembering the drama of Jesus' journey to his death, we will be offering numerous opportunities for you to feel the touch of your suffering and dying Lord Jesus Christ. Let's continue to meet him at his cross of glory! ♦

* Pr. Paul's article "I'm Giving up Brussels Sprouts!" was emailed on February 12, and may be found at oslchurch.com/news.

NEW SPROUTS!

Amid all the excitement and busy-ness of the Lent–Holy Week–Easter season—which itself occurs in the midst of OSL's time of transition, staff departures and arrivals, and ongoing internal evaluation of the workings of the congregation as it moves into the future—considerable thought and discussion has been happening regarding Our Savior's communications.

For some time now, *The Intercom* has focused on a particular ministry area, event, or activity each issue. Discussions now look at broadening coverage—in effect, gathering reports from OSL's many ministry undertakings, providing a more immediate glimpse of everything going on in this rebuilding time.

Whatever final form this publication may take, it will provide yet another channel—along with the website oslchurch.com, the weekly digital publication *Coming up at OSL*, the weekly *OSL Information Video*, OSL's Facebook page, YouTube channel, X (Twitter) and Instagram accounts, and email blasts—to help you keep up with the fast pace of ministry at Our Savior's, current and upcoming events, what pastors and other congregation leaders are thinking about, and more.

This edition of *The Intercom* provides something of a glimpse of the form this new channel may take. Look

continued on next page

Holy Week and Easter at OSL

Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion

March 23 – 5:00 p.m., Sanctuary

March 24 – 8:45 a.m., Celebrate Center

11:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Sunday School students sing at both services

Holy Week

March 26 – 6:30 p.m., Healing Service, Chapel

March 28 – 12:00 p.m., Maundy Thursday, Sanctuary

6:30 p.m., Maundy Thursday, Sanctuary

March 29 – 6:30 p.m., Good Friday, Sanctuary

Easter Sunday

March 31 – 7:00 a.m., Sunrise Service, Sanctuary

8:45 a.m., Celebrate Center

11:00 a.m., Sanctuary

NEW SPROUTS!

continued from previous page

for it to expand in the future, and be widely distributed across the congregation. As opposed to *The Intercom's* longstanding opt-in policy, in which physical copies are mailed upon request but otherwise available digitally via the OSL website, the hope will be to mail the new publication to every OSL household, except those that specifically opt out, preferring to read each issue online (where each edition will be published and archived as well).

With that in mind, we lead off with some more of Pr. Paul Svingen's reflections about the Lenten season, followed by some pertinent reports from Our Savior's Spiritual Care and Worship and Music ministry areas!

To make doubly certain you're keeping up-to-date, be sure to subscribe to the weekly digital publication *Coming up at OSL*. Scan the QR code here, or visit oslchurch.com/coming-up, click on a recent issue, then scroll down the page to the signup button! And visit oslchurch.com/videos/ for OSL's other weekly update, OSL Information Video!



—Bill Reynolds,
OSL Communications Director

“CHORUS-pondence”

In both Celebrate and Festive worship services, we employ a lot of songs and hymns, and constantly are adding new ones (or in some cases, new old ones) songs to our experiences.

Why?

From Genesis to Revelation, we are commanded to worship God. Throughout the Bible we're taught that worship comes from our obedience to the commandments, our offerings, our acts of praise—singing as well as many other forms. And worship is 24/7 living our lives for God.

A pastor once stated: “There are several reasons for opposing new music. It's too new, often worldly, and so many so you can't learn them all. It's a money scheme and some of this new music is lewd and loose.” The pastor was William Romaine, in 1723, and he was primarily writing about Isaac Watts. Isaac Watts went on to have more hymns published than anyone before his time. One thing is certain: music styles change, God's Word doesn't. We do our best at Our Savior's to sing songs that are biblically sound.

Come to worship in a spirit of sacrifice, come to love and worship God with all of your heart, soul, mind, and strength. There are over 5,300 animals that sing, most of those are birds. Only one species sings when they are in danger, fear, or sad: us humans. We sing because we must, and when you do you are “Making a Joyful Noise to the Lord!”

—Gene LeVasseur,
OSL Director of Worship

Spiritual Care Ministries

“Sing to the Lord a new song, for God has done marvelous things!” Psalm 98 vs. 1a

“Sing to the Lord a new song” has been reverberating within my heart lately as I reflect upon the blessing of the ministry I share with you. As I continue to serve as your Pastor of Spiritual Care, it never stops to amaze me how blessed we are to have this special area of ministry within the life of our church. Through the work of our dedicated volunteers and staff, the spiritual, emotional, and physically concerns of our congregational members continue to be met on a variety of levels. For this we give thanks!

- We give thanks for our visitation ministers, Maribeth Anderson and Pr. Bob Hanson, who visit and provide communion monthly to over 130 of our members in their homes and in care facilities.
- We give thanks for our Caring Friends volunteers who connect with our members in care facilities each month, reminding them that they are not forgotten, and are a valuable part of our congregational life.
- We give thanks for our Stephen Ministers who provide distinctively Christian caregiving to our friends who are going through a difficult time, reminding them of God’s presence and love with them, always.
- We give thanks for our Faith Community Nurse, Karla Cazer, who helps to facilitate our Faith Community Nurse taskforce as we envision new ways of providing this specialized ministry to the members of our church. Karla also assists with our Bereavement Ministry Program, our hospital visitation program, our exercise programs and many more things. She is a valuable part of our Spiritual Care staff!
- We give thanks for Sandy Fischer, our Bereavement Ministry Coordinator, and Lori Strobl, our Senior Administrative Assistant, who help the pastoral staff and Spiritual Care Team minister to those who have recently lost a loved one, making sure we stay connected and provide support to them throughout the following year.
- We give thanks for our Spiritual Care groups and the

ministry that provide support to so many, groups like Peace by Piece Quilting Ministries, the Woodshop Team, the Knitting Group, our Prayer Shawl Ministry Team, the Healing Garden Team, our Good Grief Group, the Recent Loss Series...and the list continues to grow!

- We give thanks to outside groups that partner with us in ministering to the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of our members and people within our community. We are grateful for the Sigh Footcare Clinic, that meets here the first Wednesday of every month, for Sad Isn’t Bad, which meets at OSL on a regular basis to provide a grief counseling course specifically to children who have experienced the death of a loved one offering support to them and their families. We are grateful for the SAIL (Stay Active and Independent for Life) strength, balance, and fitness class, offered through Sanford Health for those 65 and older, offered here regularly, and for the Matter of Balance class, also provided through the Sanford Faith Community Nurse Program. All of these partner ministries are a blessing to us indeed!

These and so many more exciting and new ministries continue to bless our congregation through our Spiritual Care Ministries. God’s Spirit is at work in and through us, and for that we are all grateful indeed!

As we look to the future, we look forward to filling the position of Spiritual Care Coordinator soon so that our staff may continue to be a vital resource to our congregation. God will provide, of that we are assured, for one only has to look around us to know that we have something good going strong here are Our Savior’s!

“Sing to the Lord a new song,” people of God, and give thanks for God’s blessings ever day!

In Christ,
Pr. Tim Lemme



909 West 33rd St.,
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

OUR SAVIOR'S
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Saturday Evening – 5:00 P.M., Sanctuary
Sunday Morning
Celebrate Worship – 8:45 A.M., Celebrate Center
Festive Worship – 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),
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