

The Intercom

August 2025

Sunday Celebrate worship at 8:45 in the Celebrate Center. Saturday Festive worship in the sanctuary at 5 pm. Sunday Festive worship 10:30 in the sanctuary.



Build Up the Community in Love

By Pastor Greg Johnson

"We are not the expression of a structure or of an organizational need: even with the service of our authority we are called to be a sign of the presence and action of the risen Lord, and thus to be community in love." Pope Francis, May 23, 2013

Everything about our new "being" as a congregation comes from our commitment to **Plant Faith**-In worship and in lifelong learning opportunities of all kinds; to **Nurture Hope**-In worship and caring conversations both orchestrated within and among us as the saints; and to **Share Love**-all four circles of ministry-**teams of members counting on the mercy of God that looks past fault and sees beauty and earthly purpose in every baptized child. That, in the end, is what building up the community in love is all about.**

All this missional inspiration comes to us from the words of St. Paul "The Greatest of these is Love" (I Corinthians 13:13b), who knew that the congregation at Corinth was "nothing" if it wasn't capable of humble loving. Pope Francis is right; all this love talk is vital to us only if we experience God's love for ourselves and then become that love to others. Anything less, is just to serve organizational need...talk of love only as part of a new mission statement for a while.

So, in this new year of Fall-Spring worshipping and learning and caring and serving, your staff will not only stay focused upon the art and the tasks of loving, but we will count on our entire membership being led into a deeper discovery of agape (servant, sacrificing, building up love). Let us remember, what Jesus did, we can do.

This is where we can start with this "building up" in the month of August. Of course the teaching of our children and the promise spoken to them on **Blessing of the Backpacks Sunday (August 17th)** that

“you are loved!” even as you dive into another, sometimes challenging, year of school. To convince every child of their worth is foundational to the life of a congregation.

New members will be welcomed on Sunday, August 24th. How meaningful it is to look new members in the eye and say, with complete confidence in the Jesus story, “this congregation welcomes you...you are loved before God and among all of us” (St. Paul again giving us our words, reminding us that there is no distinction, we all have fallen short and gather—longtime and new members alike—trusting that Christ’s love for us makes us One).

Creation, too, needs our serving love! Look way ahead with me to **Sunday, September 28**. This Sunday is coming together to be a “Creation Care” Sunday like none other! On this *Faith and Ferment* inspired Sunday, we will learn about the gift of creation, we will worship and hear God’s call to care for creation, and we will gather along the banks of the Big Sioux River and commit ourselves to the cleanup of that famous tributary trusting that the hard work of love can restore beauty.

To talk about love is one thing. To speak the loving word, to be the presence of Christ in this world, to DO the loving act, that’s what we pray God will help Our Saviors do again.

Late summer blessings to all!

OSL Children and Youth~ Getting Ready for a New School Year

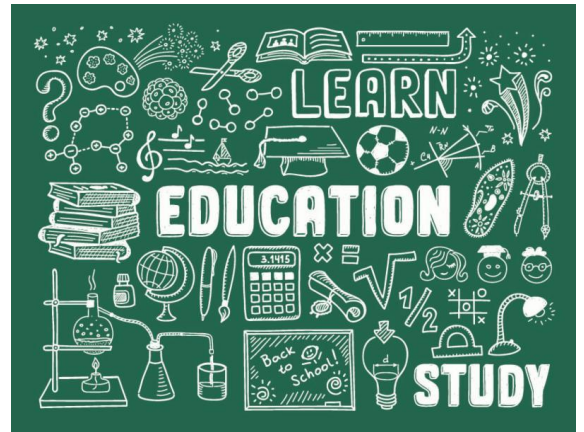
by Madeline Trosvig

As we soak up the final days of summer, we’re also getting excited for the new season of faith formation ahead! There’s a lot to look forward to this fall at OSL, and we hope you’ll be a part of it.

Intergenerational Sunday School

On the first Sunday of each month, join us in Fellowship Hall from 10:00–10:50 AM for Intergenerational Sunday School, a time where all ages, from toddlers to great-grandparents, gather to learn, play, and grow in faith together. These Sundays will be full of energy, camp-styled worship, fun crafts, and exciting experiments! Our first day of Sunday School for the year will be Sunday, September 7, and yes—it

will be an Intergenerational one! Mark your calendars and experience something special.



Sunday School Registration: Please Re-Register!

Whether your child is brand new or has attended in the past, we need **ALL** children (0-5th grade) to be re-registered for Sunday School this year. This helps us ensure we have the correct contact info, class sizes, teacher need and allergy and safety information.

👉 <https://vbspro.events/p/b29004>

Bonus! Parents can also use this same link to sign up to serve as a Sunday School teacher or helper. No experience needed, just a love for kids and a heart for sharing God’s love!

Confirmation; Joyful Noize- Fun Opportunity for 3rd-5th Graders



Do you want to explore faith in fun ways? At Joyful Noize, we use drama, art, dance, and music to grow in our understanding and relationship with God. This is a special group led by Gene LeVasseur, our Director of Worship, for 3rd-5th graders (and their parents, if able)! Let us know if your child is interested by signing up online:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4DAAA92FA4FAC61-57516253-joyful>

Confirmation

Confirmation returns this fall, and I am excited to share that I'll be taking a more active role in leading it alongside Pastor Greg. As I begin my new role as Director of Faith Formation, I look forward to walking with our middle schoolers as they explore their faith, ask big questions, and prepare to affirm their baptism. It's going to be a powerful year! The first day of confirmation will be September 10th at 6 pm with a class for middle schoolers and their parents. Please register your 6th-9th graders using this link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/nbby12gqKX>

Confirmation Guides

Do you have a heart for walking alongside young people in their faith? We are looking for Confirmation Guides to help lead small groups of middle schoolers on Wednesday nights this school year. You do not need to be a parent of a middle schooler to serve—in fact, we welcome people of all ages and backgrounds! All you need is a willingness to share your own faith and guide a group of students as they explore theirs. Interested? Contact Pastor Greg or Madeline to learn more. We'll host a Confirmation Guide Training on Wednesday, September 3rd at 6 pm—we'd love to see you there!



High School Youth Group

High School Youth Group continues this fall with space for connection, fun and deep faith conversations. We'll be looking for a few college students to help guide and build relationships in this group. If you or someone you know might be

a good fit, please reach out! Our first gathering will be September 17th at Thunder Road at 7:00 PM. RSVP here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4DAAA92FA4FAC61-57516143-thunder>

Worth the Wait

By Brad Green, OSL Member

For the eighth time since 2011, Our Savior's Lutheran members and friends took a day trip to see the Minnesota Twins play a game at Target Field in Minneapolis.

The 48-member travel party started arriving just after 6 a.m. and were all checked in and ready to go just before 7 a.m. I believe Pr. Tim and I are the only OSL members that have gone on all eight excursions with the church. Also, it was to be my 89th Twins game since I started going back as a four-year-old in 1988.

Shortly before 7 a.m., we left for Target Field on the bus. We got into baseball mode by watching the 1993 classic kid's movie, "Rookie of the Year."

We got to the stadium just before noon, ahead of the scheduled 12:10 p.m. first pitch. Well, we get to our awesome seats behind home plate (Thanks, Pr. Tim) and find out it's going to be a rain delay. They even had the tarp on the field.

The group decided to wait until at least 3 p.m.

Rudy and I walked around during the break as I shared story after story about my history with the Twins. We stopped at the Majestic Clubhouse Store and saw the Twins' organist, Sue Nelsen, play her heart out.

Around 4, they announced that the first pitch would be scheduled for 4:30 p.m.



After a four hour and 22-minute rain delay-second-longest in Twins history, Simeon Woods Richardson took the mound for the Twins.

I mean a church group goes to a Twins game and gets to see a guy named Simeon

pitch! Come on, even Hollywood couldn't script this any better. For those that do not know, you can find the story of Simeon in the Gospel of Luke in the Bible. Simeon met Joseph and Mary and baby Jesus in the temple on the 40th day after Jesus' birth.

Anyway, the Twins and Mariners traded zeroes on the scoreboard until the fifth inning. The Twins struck first as Trevor Larnach hit a 421-foot home run to right center field to give them a 2-0 lead.

After shutting down the Mariners in the top of the sixth inning, the Twins responded with a crooked number of runs as they would plate eight guys at the bottom of the frame. On the first pitch of the inning, Brooks Lee hit his own home run as he nailed a 387-foot shot to right field. After the Twins made their first out, their next seven guys would touch home plate scoring on errors, doubles, a single and another two-run home run, this one, a 420-footer to center field, coming courtesy of Minnesota native Matt Wallner. In all, the Twins would send 12 guys to the plate and score eight runs to go up 10-0.

The Mariners finally broke through on the scoreboard in the top of the ninth inning, hitting three singles together to score their lone run, with two outs. Cole Sands got Cole Young out on a groundout to

secure the Twins' 10-1 victory. The game itself lasted just two hours and 34 minutes, much shorter than the rain delay. As we walked out of the stadium, we took a group picture near the Kent Hrbek statue and loaded the bus.

We were on the road shortly after 7 p.m. headed for home. I brought along another baseball movie, "The Rookie," about former MLB pitcher, Jim Morris, so we popped that in to watch.

The driver missed a detour and ended up driving through a few small Minnesota towns. Eventually, we turned the bus around near a cemetery and we rolled into church a little after midnight.

It was "worth the wait," I told Pr. Tim as I departed the bus, to see the Twins finally win a game that the church attended.

I can't wait for the next Twins trip. I always enjoy going and being able to cheer for the Minnesota Twins.

Thanks, Pr. Tim, for letting me be your lieutenant on the trip. And thanks to Rudy Kreyer for letting me share my Twins history with him. Thanks, too, Lon Hawley for your completed scorecard so I can commemorate this memorable Twins game. Thanks to everyone who came on the trip with us. I hope you had fun. I know I did!

All I have left to say is, "Go Twins!" Brad out.



Who won the Tulip Quilt?

Jetty Duffy-Matzner won the silent auction!

The total project with the quilt and money donations to the OSL landscaping fund, which is part of our outreach to the neighborhood, came close to \$1,000.00!

Thanks everyone!

Cleaning closets, downsizing or moving?

With the OSL Quilting Ministry starting soon we have been checking our supplies and like many other things, the price of new sheets we use for quilt backs has increased again. Thrift stores offer us alternatives, but their donations are limited. While trying to conserve but still make a difference in providing comfort and support to individuals in challenging circumstances, we are looking for new or gently used flat sheets from twin to king size. Please consider dropping your extras off at church. Place sheets in the quilters bin by the office door or leave them at the office anytime during regular office hours. We also love cotton quilting fabric. Questions? Contact Marilyn Quam 605-323-5545.



Join us for Conversations with God

Wednesdays from 9 to 10:30 am

We know that Jesus is available to “converse” and be with us in prayer anytime and anywhere, but sometimes it is nice to join others in a conversation with God.

Each Wednesday, several members of our congregation gather in a circle of prayer in the

chapel. We talk and then pray for the world, for concerns that have been shared with us and for things on our hearts. We begin our time with a devotion and stop often to offer our prayers to God. You don’t need to have any special gifts or even pray out loud, just join us for this special time together.

Questions? Contact Pr. Tim Lemme


We hope you can join us. All are welcome.

Library News From Kristie Schreck

Library hours: 9-12 noon Mon.-Fri.; 3-6pm Wed.; 4:30-6 pm Sat. 9:30-12:15pm Sun.

We look forward to the continued celebration of welcoming everyone to our community library! Please join us on **Tuesday, August 26th at 4:30pm as we host a Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting Ceremony!** We want to spread the word that we are here for everyone! Please come, enjoy a treat, and visit with community members!

While you’re here, please stop in and check out the new titles we’ve added to our collection and take a look around! Books have been moved for easier access both visually and physically. We are forever a work in progress listening to and serving our patrons.



The Sioux Falls Lutheran School Annual Used Book Sale August 13-16 8-6 (Wed.-Fri.) 8-1 (Sat.)

Memorial Lutheran Church

5000 S. Western Ave.

Sioux Falls, SD

All proceeds support the Tuition Assistance Fund at Sioux Falls Lutheran School.



Stay Active & Independent for Life (SAIL)

We're looking for leaders

a strength, balance, and fitness class for adults 65+

What does this entail?

- 1 hour, 2 times/week (shared with others)
- Ideally would like 2-3 leaders
- Maintain CPR Certification (training available)
- Attend one-day SAIL Certification Training (August 12)

Attributes of a SAIL Leader

- Comfortable leading groups
- Enjoy fitness and activity
- Sufficient physical health to teach a 1-hour class
- Able to lift up to 5lbs of weight
- Willingness to maintain the SAIL standards and program fidelity

Volunteers will work with Lea Delay, RN Faith Community Nurse. Contact Lea or current leader, Karla Cazer for more information and to apply.

Thank You!

Pauline Nelson passed along thanks for the summer Blessing Bags – “We really enjoy receiving them!”

Have you had a death in the family? Let us know. Our bereavement team can help. Call the church office 605-336-2942

New Member Class Starts in August

Are you interested in learning more about Our Savior's Lutheran Church?

Have you been considering joining our community of faith?

If so, we invite you to be part of our New Member Class on August 20 from 6 to 8pm in the Friendship Room.

During our time together we will get to know each other, learn more about the history and mission of Our Savior's Lutheran, and answer any questions you have about how you can participate in the ministry we share together.

Pizza and refreshments will be provided, and staff members will be on hand to welcome you and share information on the ministry areas. New members will be received into the congregation the following Sunday, August 24, at both services.

If you would like to register for the class, or know someone who would, please contact the church office at 336-2942 for more information. We look forward to welcoming you into our community of faith where we are planting faith, nurturing hope, and sharing God's love together in Christ.



Faith Community Nurse

Nurses Notes from Lea DeLay, RN

August is National Breastfeeding month, and it is a perfect time to highlight the work and dedication that a lot of mothers have as they take on this journey of nourishment. Breastfeeding Week is celebrated across the world from August 1 – August 7. This time of recognition is vital to supporting, educating and encouraging mothers, and their support systems, about breastfeeding, a time when they may feel their most vulnerable.

Breastfeeding mothers will commit roughly 1,800 hours, over one years time, actively nursing or pumping for their baby. This does not include additional tasks, such as preparing for feedings or cleaning equipment. This averages out to be about 5 hours per day. Most breastfeeding moms are committing this time in addition to working full time jobs, caring for other family members, and caring for themselves.

Thanks to the Fair Labor Standards Act and Pump Act, employers are now required to provide reasonable break times as well as a private space, that isn't a bathroom, for employees to pump breast milk for up to one year after their child's birth. There are additional state and national laws that also protect a person's right to breastfeed outside of their home. The law in South Dakota states that, "A mother may breastfeed her child in ANY location, public or private, where the mother and child are otherwise authorized to be present if the mother is following all other state and municipal laws. However, no municipality may outright ban breastfeeding in public places."

Here at OSL we value and recognize the time, commitment and privacy of those breastfeeding. If someone desires a clean, comfortable environment for nursing or pumping, they may use the "Mother's Room," located in the spiritual care office. There is a rocking chair, a reclining chair and a sink available for your comfort and cleanliness, plus a door or curtain that may be closed for privacy.

There are services available in Sioux Falls which can provide additional support with the breastfeeding journey:

Sanford Lactation Support Hotline: Call 605-328-7120 to speak to a lactation consultant or postpartum nurse

Sanford Mom2Be Center: Offers online breastfeeding classes via Webex.

Avera McKennan Breast Feeding Support: Support available from a nurse or lactation consultant, in the hospital after delivery or at home follow-up care

The Sonography studio: Offers lactation services with two experts who can help with various breastfeeding issues. Call 712-587-7131

Chorus-pondence

by Gene LeVasseur, director of worship and music

I recently had the pleasure of attending worship at my Cedar Rapids family's church and stood next to my 14-year-old grandson, Jayvin.

What a JOY it is to worship with family! Toni and I do not have any family in South Dakota, so we appreciate our visits and opportunity to worship together with them very much.

Jayvin was very attentive, recited all the spoken responses, and was very gracious with sharing the peace, BUT I didn't hear him sing.

When Jayvin was younger, he loved to sing and currently is playing percussion in the school band. He understands the music and the message but still didn't participate. On the drive home I asked Jayvin about this, and he said ever since his voice changed he stopped singing.

Understandable! I shared that same experience but my mother was a singer and helped me get through that period.

I gently shared our purpose for singing – to worship our God personally and with the congregation. My mom told our family (my dad sang the least) that no one else can sing God's praises for you. Scripture tells us that God the Father is singing over us, Jesus is singing with us, and the Holy Spirit is singing through us. We supply the voice that carries the song of the Holy Spirit. What a beautiful thing, regardless of your individual singing voice.

There's a wonderful quote for folks whose brains are anxious about singing – "Sing to the Lord with your brain on ice and your heart on fire!"



Middle School & High School **LOCK IN**



AUGUST 9-10

Begins at 9:00 PM and we'll stay over night! We will attend the Celebrate Service together in the morning!

**RSVP: EMAIL MADELINE
(MTROSVIG@OSLCHURCH.COM)**

For those going into 6th -12th grade in the 2025-26 school year.
Bringing friends is encouraged!

August Calendar

National Immunization Awareness month, National peach month
The Perseid Meteor Shower occurs in August.

Aug 1- 11-1 pm Pickleball; World Lung Cancer Day, homemade pie day

Aug. 2 - 8-noon Woodshop Ministry; Dinosaurs Day

Aug. 4 - National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day

Aug. 5 - Mahjong 1-3 pm

Aug. 6 - 9-3pm Foot Care Clinic; 9-10:30am Conversations with God; 9-noon Card Recycling Group; 10-11am Walking Wednesdays

Aug. 7 - 9-10am SAIL; 10-11am Good Grief Group; 11-1pm pickleball. 7-8:30pm Faith & Ferment at Icon Lounge.

Aug. 8 - 11-1pm pickleball.

Aug. 9 - 8-noon Woodshop ministry

Aug. 9-10 starts at 9pm- stay overnight Middle School and High School Lock In

Aug. 10 – Conversation with assistant to the bishop, Pastor Jonathan Vehar, about what it means to be a congregation in the E.L.C.A. (more information below)

Aug. 11 - 9-10am SAIL

Aug. 12 - 8-4:30pm SAIL class Training (Sanford); 9-noon Peace by Piece Quilting Group; 1-3pm Mahjong

Aug. 13 - 9-noon Card Recycling Group; 9-10:30am conversations with God; 10-11am Walking Wednesdays; International Left-handers Day

Aug.14 - 10-11am-Good Grief Group; 11-1pm Pickleball

Aug.15 - 11-1pm.Pickleball, National Relaxation Day

Aug.16 - 8-noon Woodshop Ministry



Aug. 17 – Blessing of the Backpacks, from toddlers to teachers, at both services

Aug. 19 - SAIL

Aug. 19 - 1-3pm Mahjong

Aug.20 8:45-10:30am Women of Faith Circle; 9-noon card Recycling Group; 9-10:30 Conversations with God; 10-11am Walking Wednesdays; 1-2:30pm Book Covering; 3-6pm Library open; 6pm New Member Class

Aug. 21- 9-10am SAIL;10-11am Good Grief Group; 11-1pm Pickleball; 1-3pm Ladies Circle; National Senior Citizens Day

Aug. 22 - 11-1-Pickleball

Aug. 23 - 8-noon Woodshop Ministry

Aug. 24 – 6-8 pm New Member Class; National Waffle Day

Aug. 25 - SAIL

Aug. 26 - 9-noon Peace by Piece Quilting Group; 9:30-11 Knitting Group; 1-3pm Mahjong; 4:30pm Library Ribbon Cutting

Aug. 27 - 9-noon Card recycling Group; 9-10:30 conversations with God; 10-11am Walking Wednesdays; 3-6pm Library open; 5:30-7:30pm Tailgate Picnic

Aug. 28 - SAIL; 10-11am Good Grief Group; 11-1pm Pickleball.

Aug. 29 - 11-1pm Pickleball

Aug. 30th - 9-noon Woodshop Ministry; National Grief Awareness Day

Looking Ahead to September 2



The Friendship Club-11am-Danielle Ihler, experienced attorney with Legacy Law Firm in Sioux Falls, will speak on topics such as living wills, estate planning, advance directives and other topics. Everyone needs a plan, and your family will be grateful for clear instructions. Stay for a catered lunch from Roll'n Pin afterwards for a suggested donation of \$8 per person.

September 7 Kickoff Sunday

A celebration of our Ministry Team-led congregation and its work. A special emphasis upon the beginning of our Sunday School/Christian education year. Registration for all the youth and family ministries within the church will continue that day.

September 28, Creation Care Sunday

All day Sunday, OSL will focus on our ability to love God's creation with how we live. Our congregation will join with the Friends of the Big Sioux River for a river cleanup event, 1:30-3:30 that afternoon.

Signups will begin in late August.

October 5 Bach Collegium concert at 7pm: Augustana Music Department



What it means to be a congregation in the ELCA

On Sunday, August 10th, Our Savior's will be welcoming Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor Jonathan Vehar as a worship and adult forum leader. With the Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA having just wrapped up, he will have the latest news pertaining to

the broad work of our Church.

We will ask him to spend some time talking about the various and important topics pertaining to the question, "What does it mean to be a congregation in the ELCA?"

At a time in the church when there are a host of statements being made about the autonomy of a congregation and a congregation's relationship to the broader church, this Sunday will be important for Our Savior's but also faith communities across South Dakota. (Please note the following question and answer sheet provided below by our Synod Office that will help frame our conversations).





South Dakota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Journeying Together in Christ

Clarifying Who We Are and How We Walk Together

- Do ELCA congregations have to adopt the Model Constitution exactly?
■ Certain sections are required for consistency across the ELCA—like our shared faith statements and how pastors are called. Everything else can be adapted to fit your local context.
- Can the synod take control of our building or finances?
■ No. Congregations own their property. The synod only steps in temporarily if a congregation disbands or can no longer function—and even then, only to protect property, not claim it.
- Could our pastor be disciplined for disagreeing with an ELCA social statement?
■ No. Social statements are not mandates. They are teaching documents to guide faithful conversation. Disagreement is expected—and protected.
- Is the ELCA becoming more hierarchical and controlling?
■ No. The ELCA remains a church of shared leadership. No proposal at the 2025 churchwide assembly would diminish the voice of congregations within the ELCA.
- Could we lose our congregation's autonomy or identity?
■ Absolutely not. The ELCA honors the independence of each congregation. Misunderstandings often arise from fear or incomplete readings of church documents.
- What should we do if we're worried?
■ Visit with your synod staff! Read ELCA documents in full. Ask questions. We are a church built on Christ, ready to walk together.

www.sdsynod.org

Volunteer Opportunities



Bishop Dudley Hospitality House

We're looking for reliable and compassionate volunteers to serve as Meal Transport Volunteers for our Center for Families. This role involves picking up the prepared lunch meal from the Bishop Dudley Hospitality House (downtown location) and delivering it to our Center for Families by 3:00 PM each day. Though it's lunch, the

meal is served as dinner at our center.

Duties Include: Arrive at Bishop Dudley around 2:45–3:00 PM to pick up the prepared meal

Transport the meal to the Center for Families

Coordinate with shelter staff upon arrival to ensure the food is ready for serving

No serving required—just a timely and dependable delivery!

Requirements:

Access to a vehicle and valid driver's license

Ability to lift and carry food containers (moderate weight)

Promptness and dependability

Friendly, respectful attitude—you're a key part of the chain of care! This role is perfect for someone who has a short window of time but wants to make a meaningful impact. By delivering the evening meal, you're directly supporting families experiencing homelessness with nourishment and dignity.

Contact Information

- Church office 605-336-2942 info@oslchurch.com
- Rev. Tim Lemme - Pastor of Spiritual Care Ministries

tlemme@oslchurch.com

- Rev. Greg Johnson - Interim Pastor of Youth and Family Ministries

gjohnson@oslchurch.com

- Gene LeVasseur – Director of Worship and Music

glevasseur@oslchurch.com

- Madeline Trosvig – Faith Formation Coordinator

mtrosvig@oslchurch.com

- Rudy Kreyer – Financial Coordinator rkreyer@oslchurch.com



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