

The Intercom

July 2025

Celebrate worship 8:45-9:45 in the Celebrate Center and Festive worship 10:30-11:30 in the Sanctuary.

A New Look

By Pr. Lemme

The Intercom has long been the source of monthly news for Our Savior's and its ministry. Throughout the years it has taken on many different forms, most recently a brief update on specific events happening each month.

In addition to the Intercom, there has also been a monthly Spiritual Care Newsletter, digital updates from our Lifelong Learning Ministry team, and monthly updates posted from our other ministry teams.

Beginning this month, to streamline these different monthly news offerings, and better improve our communication, we have combined all our ministry news items into a newly formatted monthly Intercom. The Intercom will include;

- Monthly news updates from each ministry area.
- The Spiritual Care Newsletter
- A calendar of daily, weekly, and monthly events.
- Special sections from the Pastors, ministry highlights like "Saints Among Us," and celebrations of ministry programs we have shared and ones we look forward to.

We are grateful to our Spiritual Care Coordinator, Dorene Weinstein, for agreeing to help put the Intercom together and publishing it each month in addition to her other duties on staff. She brings with her wonderful writing skills, and a gift for storytelling that we know you will enjoy each month.

We hope you like the new look of the Intercom.



Iris from our Healing Garden

Saints Among Us

By Dorene Weinstein

Weeding is a Zen activity for Karen Andrisen.

While it's not so for most of us, Karen's love of weeding is a good thing since she's an active volunteer who helps keep the Healing Garden at OSL looking its best.

"It's very soothing to me to pull weeds. It's good for my soul," she says with a chuckle.

It's a way to work out problems, sort through memories and have something productive done at the end of the hour. "Lots of times I go by myself - it's a nice time to meditate."



The Healing Garden is a good place to work on grief, too. "Sometimes I shed a tear while I'm there, but that's healing for me," says Karen who's been helping in the garden for five years.

She remembers how she started. "There was a woman selling plants at a table after church. I thought I'd buy some."

"I visited with her," it all fell into place from there.

"And then I started showing up to help with the garden."

The Healing Garden started about 25 years through the Caring Ministries and came to fruition through a congregational effort. Both gardens, the original one and the current one built

Karen Andrisen and her dog Stella after the addition in 2010, were Eagle Scout projects, says Joyce Kaatz, former parish nurse. "People originally donated the plants," says Joyce, who was in the initial group of gardeners.

The path in the new garden was recycled from the old entryway that was ripped up during the addition.

"We'd get together every Wednesday morning, had a devotion with a prayer and then everyone got to work for about an hour," says Joyce.

It's more casual these days, with people helping when they're able.

"Everyone pitches in," says Lori Tendler, who has been tending the garden since 2010 and puts in 20 to 30 hours a week. Besides the physical labor, it's her time to meditate and think. "We're at God's house." He takes care of us, and we take care of the garden.

Fall and spring cleanup is a group project, so too for picking out spring annuals.

She loves to watch the small beginner plants unfold as summer progresses. Every year the garden is slightly different, it's the natural evolution of things.



Lori Tendler

For example, “there used to be three trees to represent the trinity, but it got beetles,” Lori says. Also, “you never know how many perennials will make it through the winter” so that changes the landscape.

After planting and weeding “we get to watch the ducks and see the birds use the birdbath. We also get to see the darn rabbits eat the garden,” says Karen ruefully.

There’s a couple of ducks that nest in the garden every year. You can see them waddling around murmuring near the front doors of the church every spring.

Could they be the ones matting down the flowers and eating the verbena?

The garden is a neighborhood attraction, Lori says. “It’s a conversation piece.” An elderly couple that lives nearby always brings their guests over to admire the garden. Some folks eat their lunch there.

One time a college student found out his elderly cat was sick. “He sat on the bench in the garden holding his cat before it was put down,” Lori says.

“Everybody needs healing from some pain.”

The garden is good for that.



Thank you, Lori Tendler and Karen Andrisen, you are **Saints Among Us!**

Interested in helping? Call Lori Tendler at 605-323-8009 or Karen Andrisen at 605-929-2672 Everyone welcome!

Stephen Ministry

Mission statement: *Stephen Ministry at OSL shares the love of Jesus Christ by providing confidential, one-to-one, distinctively Christian care to individuals who are experiencing life’s challenges.*



Ask yourself; Would my gifts and talents be put to good use as a Stephen Minister?

Stephen Ministers work alongside our pastors to provide emotional and spiritual support to people going through difficult times.



OSL will offer a Stephen Ministers Training Class August 19 through November 18.

Stephen Ministers don't just provide care for people experiencing a major crisis. They also provide care and support for people weighed down by the little things in life. If you are feeling down, lonely, stressed, or discouraged, you could benefit from the care, support and encouragement of a Stephen Minister.

Counseling from a Stephen Minister is free, confidential and it will make a difference in your life!

Interested in becoming a Stephen Minister? Contact Pastor Tim at 605-359-7376.

Faith Community Nurse

Nurses Notes from Lea DeLay, RN

I wanted to take a moment to offer my sincere gratitude to all who took their time to participate in the Health and Wellness Survey during the month of May. The data we collected is insightful and we can use it to brainstorm for the year ahead.

Your participation is always valued and appreciated!

Thank you.

Lea DeLay, RN – Faith Community Nurse



Church on the Street

By Dorene Weinstein

The Church on the Street is a ministry of presence, says Pastor Chris Matson who has been serving the homeless for three years.

The ministry moves to suit the needs of the people and is partnered with many organizations in the area creating a web of support for those experiencing homelessness.

"It's the hardest and holiest thing I've ever done," Matson says of her ministry. Twenty percent of their funding comes from ELCA and 80 percent comes from churches and individuals.

The Church on the Street worships monthly at Heritage Park during the warm weather.

About 2,000 people are impacted by the ministry. "We don't worship weekly because it wasn't asked for. They needed pastoral care over worship."



Chris Matson

Arts in the Park, an annual event, takes place Tuesday, July 29, from 4-6 p.m. in Heritage Park. "It's like their bible school with prayers, activity stations and food." Participants tie the 350 shirts.

The ministry has expanded to include Laundry With Love which assists anyone in need with laundry on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. It is held at The Laundromat Company at 701 N. Cliff Ave. Sign-ups are available for the week prior to the event. [Please visit our Laundry with Love Facebook Page here for more information and to sign up for the event.](#)

Church on the street is located inside the Multi-Cultural Center. Office Hours: M, W, F 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Clean Comedy Night Family Friendly Fun with Tim Boyd

**at Our Saviors Lutheran
Church**

7:00PM JULY 16TH

WEDNESDAY

Free Will Offering

Potluck meal before the show. OSL will provide BBQ's. Bring a salad or dessert to share.

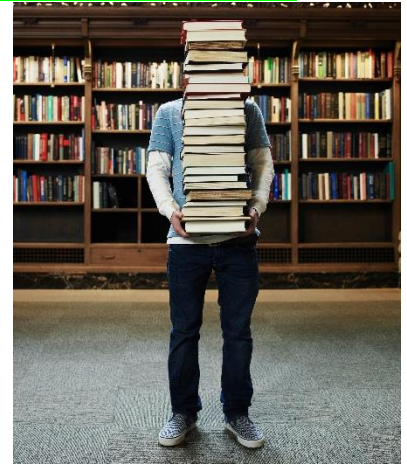
The band "Short Notice" will be playing in the Gathering Place.



Faith and Ferment meets July 10th at 7 p.m. in the Friendship Room. Dr. Steve Matzner is speaking on topics related to creation care. All are welcome. Questions? Contact Pr. Greg 605-940-5875.

Watch for our new website coming later this month!

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.



Library News

By Kristie Schreck, Library Coordinator



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

Library Under Construction!

Not really, but if you stop by this month, you'll see some things out of place or in a new place all together. Don't let the changes scare you off. When I worked in retail at Musicland in the mall, we would often move things around, not to aggravate customers, but to give items a fresh new look! We tend to get in the habit of going into the grocery store and heading straight for our standard list items, but when they change things up, we end up having to look around a bit longer and notice items we hadn't noticed before. That's not such a bad thing...unless you're in a hurry!

We have added nearly 900 new books to the OSL Community Library in the last year and are proud to offer added titles for all ages and interest groups. There is always a helpful volunteer waiting in the library for the opportunity to help you find your next book. Stop by and "check out" our progress over the next few months!



Fun Fact – 87 gallons of coffee were made for the Synod Assembly last month at which the Reverend Constanze Hagmaier was reelected to the office of Bishop.

Packing the Blessing Bags

Summer Blessing Bags were assembled early last month by Cindy and Glenn Wika, Sandie Mulder, Pr. Tim and Dorene Weinstein. They go to our members who are unable to get to church and were delivered the second Sunday of June, or thereabouts, by church members and visitation ministers.

It was a churchwide effort with the Sunday School kids decorating the bags, volunteers assembling them and the congregation delivering them.

It took just 19 minutes to fill 95 Blessing Bags. Thanks everyone!

Want to help? Watch for information on upcoming Blessing Bags around Christmas!



July Calendar

Tuesday, July 1 – 1-3 pm Mahjong every Tuesday. Peace by Piece Quilting Group 2nd and fourth Tuesday 9- noon. Knitting Group 9:30-11 a.m. the fourth Tues.

Wednesday, July 2 – 8:45 – 10:30 am Women of Faith Circle every third Wed.; 9 to noon Card Recycling Group rm.103, every Wed.; 10-11 Walking Wednesdays in the Hub every Wed. Conversations with God 9-11a.m.

Thursday, July 3 – Ladies Circle 1-3:30p.m. every third Thurs. Good Grief Group every Thurs. 10-11a.m. room 101.

Pickleball 11-1p.m. every Thursday.

Friday, July 4 – Happy Fourth of July! Church closed.

Saturday, July 5 – Woodshop ministry 8-noon in the woodshop every Sat.; Festive Worship in the sanctuary every Sat. at 5pm.

Sunday, July 6 – Celebrate worship 8:45-9:45 in the Celebrate Center and Festive worship 10:30-11:30 in the Sanctuary.

Monday, July 7 – World Chocolate Day.

July 10 – Faith and Ferment group is meeting at 7 p.m. in the Friendship Room. Dr. Steve Matzner is speaking on topics related to “creation care.”

July 11 – Pickleball every Friday 11-1p.m.

July 11-12 -Lallycooler Music Festival 4pm– Great Bear Ski Valley, Live music from eight bands, food trucks, vendors, free shuttle service.

July 16 – Family Fun Comedy Night with Tim Boyd. OSL 7 p.m. Free will offering.

Potluck meal. OSL will provide BBQ's. Bring a salad or dessert to share.

July 27- Open House for Pr. Paul from 2-5 p.m. at Island Lake 870 County 46 NW, Backus, Mn. 56435 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of his ordination.

July 30 – International Day of Friendship



Everyone had a lovely time listening to Mogen's Heroes while enjoying food and fellowship. The Great Plains Streetrodders filled the parking lot with vintage cars, and Miller Funeral Home and the Shriners provided a BBQ meal that was out of this

world. **Thanks** to everyone who helped make this a special night! – Pr. Tim Lemme

CAMP: The Best Week of Their Lives

by Madeline Trosvig Coordinator of Faith Formation

On June 15th, Gene LeVasseur and I had the joy of bringing five middle schoolers to Outlaw Ranch Bible Camp in the Black Hills. It was a full-circle moment for me. Back in 2015, I went to Outlaw as a camper and fell in love with the beauty of western South Dakota. I was only 15 at the time, but I remember saying, "I'm going to college in South Dakota just so I can be closer to Outlaw when I'm older." And I did!

Now, ten years later, I have the privilege of introducing a new generation to the joy of camp life. Our group returned home on June 20th in unanimous agreement: this had been the best week of their lives. Tears were shed as they said goodbye to their counselors and

Thank you to everyone who made

the June **Summer Blast** at Our Saviors a fun event for all! The rain held off, (although we did move our supper inside).



new friends, a true testament to the power of camp and Christian community. One of my favorite comments from the van ride home was, “I didn’t even THINK about video games this week!” That kind of unplugged joy and deep connection is exactly what makes camp so meaningful. We’re incredibly grateful for Outlaw’s ministry and the chance to witness God at work in the lives of these kids. Want to hear more about our week at Outlaw Ranch? Join us at Our Savior’s on August 2nd and 3rd—I’ll be giving the message during worship, centered around our time at camp. I’m looking forward to sharing the stories and spirit of camp with you!



Dear VBS Volunteers

I’ve been meaning to send this note since the last “Compass Closing,” and while a vacation and a week at camp swept me away right after VBS, I haven’t stopped thinking about the incredible week we shared together.

Thank you—TRULY—for your time, energy, and heart. You helped create a space where kids could laugh, learn, and grow in faith as we all discovered how to trust Jesus in this “wild world.” Whether you led a crew, taught a station, kept us organized behind the scenes, or simply stepped in wherever help was needed, your presence made a lasting impact.

Throughout the week, I saw joy on the kids’ faces, kindness in their actions, and deeper connections forming, and I know that’s because of the love and care you poured into each day. Thank you for showing up with such generous spirits and for helping create something special.

I hope you’re still carrying some of the joy of VBS with you—and I hope you know how grateful I am for you. With heartfelt thanks,

Madeline Trosvig, Faith Formation Director

Next year's theme:



Chorus-Pondence

By Gene LeVasseur, director of worship and music

The word “patience” is defined like this: “the capacity to accept or tolerate delay, trouble, or suffering without getting angry or upset.”

At our last staff retreat I was randomly given the star with “Patience” on it. I’ve been working on having a spirit of worship when I have the “opportunity” to wait.



Time has become so precious that waiting has become even more frustrating. I do not enjoy going out to eat because of the cost and having to wait to be seated, wait to place our order, wait for our food, and wait for our check. The server is NOT the wait-er, we are!

We need patience when we face difficulty, disappointment, disapproval, and disaster.

No one modeled patience better in the bible than Job. Perhaps that is why it was common for my grandmother to say “have the patience of Job” when someone got angry. Job wasn’t perfect but he was patient.

I remember praying for my mother for over a year while she battled Leukemia and never seeing her angry or upset, she had the patience of Job. I remember waiting four years for a prayer to be answered, ultimately, not the way I had hoped, and not having the patience of Job.

Every worship service we hear our pastors say, “the peace of the Lord be with you always.” Always is key, not just peace in worship, but always. I see patience and peace every week at Our Saviors – hundreds of people that love God, love people, and serve joyfully with patience and peace.

I’ll end with a quote from the great theologian, Master Oog Way from the movie “Kug-Fu Panda;”

“Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is a gift. That is why they call it the present.”

God bless all our days with patience!



Volunteer Opportunities

Fridays at the Fairgrounds Food

Giveaway starts at 3 p.m. - At each giveaway, we need over 80 volunteers to help pack food and boxes, bring food outside, direct more than 1,000 vehicles, and load boxes into vehicles. Faith Temple Food Giveaway. [Volunteer | FT Food](#)

[Giveaway](#) Sign up or show up.

July 7 – Summer Pantry fulfillment volunteer -Join us in our Sort Room and Warehouse where you'll play a crucial role in picking and packing food for pantries across Sioux Falls. Each week, our Community Engagement Center and Sanford Children's Wellness Pantry rely on your help to restock their shelves and support local children and families in need. Help provide essential food supplies to kids and families in Sioux Falls.

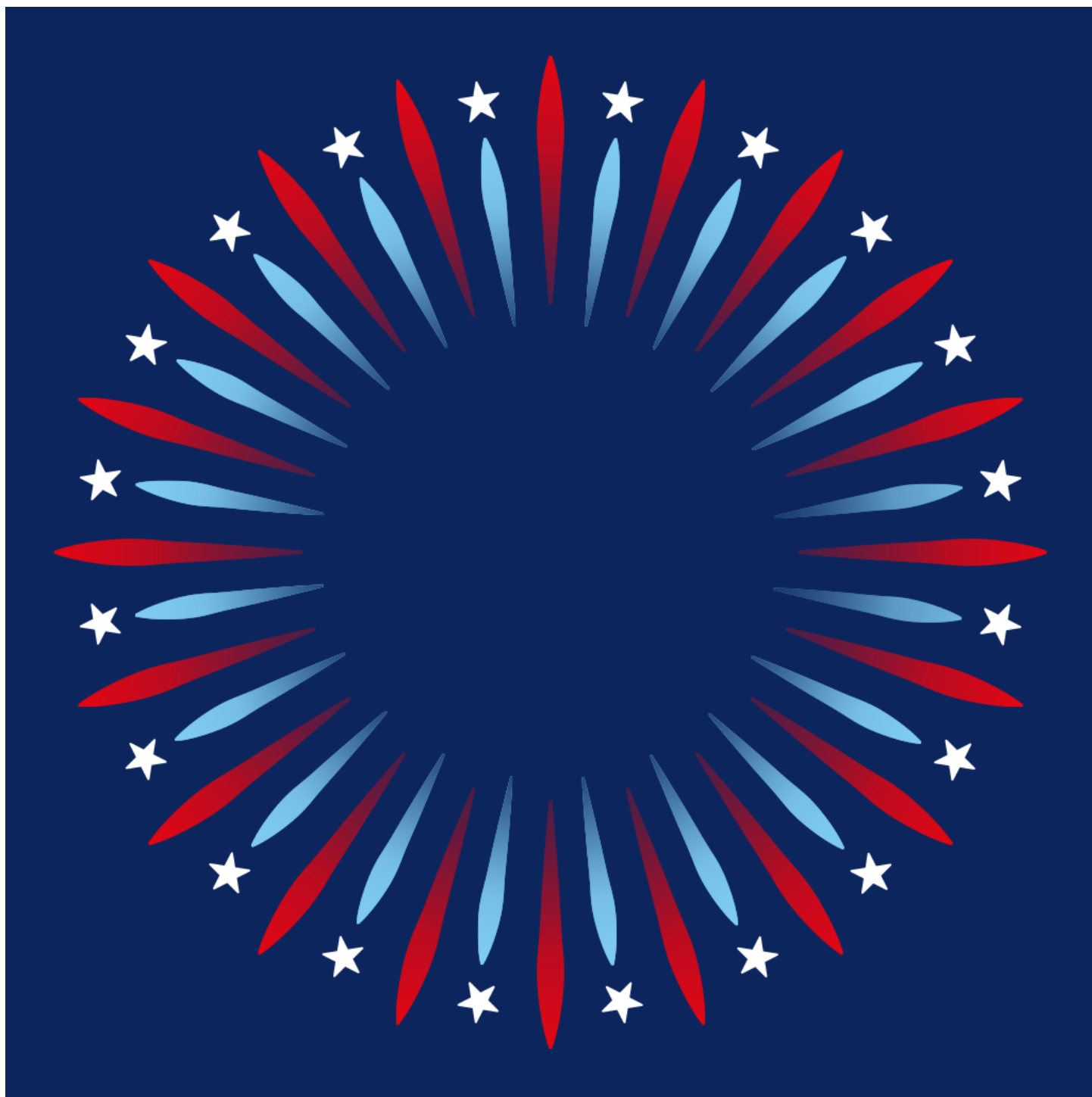
You'll be sorting, boxing, and recording food items. Work around forklifts and, if comfortable, use a pallet jack.

Stand, bend, and lift for up to 4 hours, with occasional lifts of up to 30lbs

[Sioux Falls: Summer Pantry Fulfillment Volunteer \(2025\) | Feeding South Dakota](#)

July 8 – Light office work, stuffing envelopes Help the fight against food insecurity by assisting Feeding South Dakota staff in various light office tasks. Volunteers may also work on other light-duty projects that aid in emergency food assistance efforts for South Dakotans in need. Please arrive 10 minutes early and wear comfortable clothing in layers. Volunteers will be given instructions and training upon arrival and will have staff support as needed throughout their shift. [Sioux Falls Light Office Work - Outgoing Mail \(2025\) | Feeding South Dakota](#)

Happy 4th of July!



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 Le Vasseur – Director of Worship and Music

glevasseur@oslchurch.com

- Madeline Trosvig – Faith Formation Coordinator

mtrosvig@oslchurch.com

- Rudy Kreyer – Financial Coordinator rkreyer@oslchurch.com



909 West 33rd St.
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

(605) 336-2942
www.oslchurch.com

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Broadcast & Livestreams

- Celebrate: 9 a.m., KTTW (cable channel 9; channel 7.1)
- Festive: 1 p.m., KSCB (cable channel 30, channel 53)
- Facebook Live: 8:45 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
- YouTube Live: 8:45 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

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