



A Letter from Pastor Greg

I have been with you as an interim pastor for sixteen months, long enough to feel how deeply this is of a spiritual time for Our Savior's: A time of discernment; stabilizing; a time of rebirth. We, remembering now how important it is to be God's people together, are more fully trusting that Jesus is indeed among us.

Which means—as the very team-led structure of the congregation now reflects—this is our time to make commitments to the future of OSL. The time is perfect now to step up in our offerings: every member asked to pray over how God might use **time and talents** offered as well as what will happen when the broad membership increases our **financial support** of the general fund by a fraction so that we can:

- **further support existing and new ministries within the walls of our congregation.**
- **more confidently finalize the pastoral staffing configuration for the coming years.**
- **increase our benevolence in support of God's work near and very far.**

As this newsletter goes out, so too does a carefully put together **packet of stewardship materials** for each of our hundreds of households. (Check your mail for a 9" x 12" white "Where Two or Three are Gathered" envelope. Please open it and begin to pray over for what is to come.)

And, once you have prayed over your commitments, then come with your responses in hand to church. Come to worship and we will let God take over as we walk our responses forward and place this ministry in the hands of the One who has promised to be with us. Generations of members committing to the sharing of our abilities and resources for the sake of building our future. November will be an ingathering of our lives, added together, for the work that is ours. What a thanksgiving we will have this year!

On behalf of the OSL Stewardship
committee,
Pastor Greg Johnson

Meet Our New Lead Pastor



Why I am here

This new chapter at Our Savior's is a sacred invitation: to live and grow together in faith. After years of raising my sons and learning through life's twists, I am excited to begin this move not out of obligation, but out of call.

I come with joy, humility, curiosity - and yes, I do awkward well. Mostly, I am grateful to be among people willing to show up, be real, and follow Jesus together.

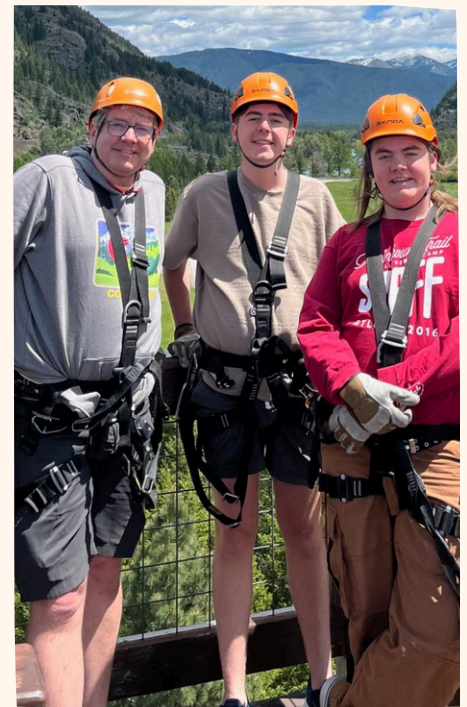
Pastor Michael Stadtmueller

Who I am

- Father to two incredible sons: Gabriel, a junior at Pacific Lutheran University, and Jonah, in his first year at the University of Northern Colorado.
- Originally from Iowa, but I grew up in Texas. My dad was the Business Manager at Texas Lutheran University, and my mom worked as a real estate agent. They now enjoy retirement, splitting time between Seguin Texas and Door County, Wisconsin.
- I have served as pastor at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Fort Collins, Colorado, since 2002.
- Youngest of three boys - my brothers Paul and Jon came before me.
- Dog Dad to Gili, who believes she should be wherever I am.
- Graduate of Wartburg College and Luther Seminary

Life's Little Joys

- I drink entirely too much Starbucks (though I am open to local coffee shops - let's grab one together!).
- Favorite flower? 🌻 Sunflower - bold, bright, hopeful, always pointing to the sun.
- Lifelong Chicago Cubs fan (yes, even before 2016).
- A sucker for musicals - I have cried more than once. (Also cried during Cool Runnings... not sorry.)
- Hiking and the outdoors restore me. Mountains, trees, sky - they help me breathe.



Pastor Michael with
Gabe and Jonah near
Glacier National Park

Library News



From Kristie Schreck, Library Coordinator
Library Hours:

Mon.-Fri. 9a.m.-Noon; Wed. 3-6p.m.;

Sat. 4:30-6p.m.; Sun. 9:30a.m-12:15p.m.

www.oslchurch.com/library/

Record Breaking Number of People Visit Library!

We are beyond excited to announce that on a Thursday morning in October, we had 59 patrons using our OSL library! We had the Augie preschool, the Good Grief group, 2 homeschool families, and 4 moms with little children all under the age of 4! We truly enjoy serving our OSL families and the community of Sioux Falls. Our team of volunteers has been simply amazing greeting and helping our new and faithful patrons find just what they're looking for. Some days we offer the perfect book and some days we offer the perfect rocking chair. Check out the photos of the blessings given and received for our patrons both young and seasoned. Simply pure joy!



The Good Grief Group and Storytime

Chorus-pondence

Don't be like the anonymous writer who experienced this:

- I was dying to finish high school and start college.
- Then I was dying to finish college and start a career.
- Then I was dying to marry and have children.
- Then I was dying to retire.
- Now, I am dying and suddenly realize I forgot to live.

Live Passionately



In April of 2014 I lost my brother Glen and at his visitation one of his friends, Dirt, (he owned a landscaping business) said “Carpe Deum,” and I said “do you mean Carpe Diem?” Dirt said, “That means seize the day and I said Carpe Deum which means seize God.” I pondered that a lot and really appreciated those words.

In June of 2014 I wrote a passionate note in a book I had just read: Lord, I want to live a passionate life! I want to glorify YOU! Help me see my path with passion and pursue my path with passion! Guide me, show me Your way and I will RUN down that path. I love the Lord Jesus Christ, my savior! On August 1st, 2014, I became the Director of Worship at Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

Here's my twist to that anonymous writing above:

- I'm living to love my neighbor – that's everyone!
- I'm living to love God – worshipping who I love the most, what a JOY!

Here's another note that I wrote in that same book: “No more grumbling after a bad shot, or decision. (golf and life!) I'm going to do my best to look ahead at the opportunities that my failures and successes afford me. I'm excited about the next step God has for me!” God bless us all with strength to live with passion.

“SING” cerely, Gene LeVasseur

(Above photo: Christopher and I enjoying choir rehearsal)



Thanks so much to all who turned out September 28th and brought such thoughtful cards to commemorate my stepping down from the job of Celebrate Band coordinator.

**I am so grateful for the kind thoughts and support.
Denny Gale**

Celebrating Our Confirmands

On Reformation Sunday, October 26th, our ninth graders affirmed their baptism through the Rite of Confirmation. Surrounded by family, mentors, and the congregation, they shared their faith and commitment to continue growing as disciples of Christ. Congratulations to our five newest confirmands, Landan Castle, Nathan Christensen, O'Zareus Davis, Carlee Horsley, and Julia Weins! May their faith continue to deepen and shine brightly as they live out their call to follow Jesus.

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” Matt. 5:16



2nd Grade Lord's Prayer Milestone: November 16th

On Sunday, November 16th, our 2nd graders will be celebrating their Lord's Prayer Milestone! During the Celebrate Service (8:45a.m.), children will receive a special blessing, and afterward, there will be a class for 2nd graders and their guardians from 10:00–10:50a.m. downstairs. This milestone is a meaningful time for families to learn more about the Lord's Prayer together and to reflect on how it shapes our daily walk of faith. Please keep these students and their families in your prayers as they reach this important step in their faith journey.

Getting Ready for the Christmas Program

Mark your calendars! Our Sunday School children will be leading us in the Christmas Program on ***Sunday, December 7th, at the Festive Service (11:00a.m.)***

This special service is always a highlight of the Advent season as our kids share the grand miracle of Jesus' birth through scripture, song, and acting.

Throughout November, Sunday School time will be dedicated to practicing songs, actions, and speaking parts for the program. It's very important for children to attend regularly so they feel confident and ready to share their gifts on December 7th!

We are excited to see the joy and faith our kids bring to this special day of worship. Thank you, families, for making Sunday School a priority this month. It really makes all the difference in helping our children be confident and shine for the glory of God!

By Madeline Trosvig, Director of Faith Formation

Family Fun Night Recap

Over 150 people joined us for Family Fun Night in October and what a night it was! From tiny painters to big helpers, the church was filled with laughter, creativity, and community. Families painted pumpkins, shared a meal, and spent time together in fellowship. Thank you to everyone who helped make the evening such a joyful success!

It's always a blessing to see our church come together and be in fellowship.



Random Acts of Kindness

Last year during Advent, our confirmation students took part in Random Acts of Kindness night, blessing the Sioux Falls community by giving away 14 envelopes filled with a kind message and 50 dollars in cash! From buying groceries to paying for meals, these small gifts had a big impact, not only on those who received them, but also on our youth who experienced the joy of giving. And this powerful event would not have been possible without the generous donations from our members. With all that said, we're excited to do Random Acts of Kindness again this year!

To support this project, donation boxes will be available in the Church Office during the week and at the Welcome Desk on Sundays starting November 12th. Every gift collected will go directly toward empowering our students to share kindness in our community this upcoming Christmas season. If you wish to make a significant contribution to support this event, whether for this year or to help sustain it in the years to come, please contact Madeline Trosvig.



Be the Ultimate Toss Boss!

This November, our Sunday School kids are teaming up with OSL's Creation Care Team for a fun and meaningful challenge: the Toss Boss Recycling Competition! During November, we'll be collecting cleaned-out pop cans to recycle.

The competition will run in two ways:

Sunday School Grade vs. Sunday School Grade:

Which class can bring in the most cans?

Sunday School vs. the Entire Congregation:

Can the kids beat the grown-ups?

Collection bins will be located along the stairs by the Gathering Place. Bring your rinsed cans and toss them in the bin for your team. At the end of the month, we'll weigh the bins to see which group is the ultimate Toss Boss! We even have a special surprise in store for the winning grade level.

Not only is this a chance to have some fun and build community, but it's also a way for us to care for God's creation together. Every can will make a difference!
By Madeline Trosvig, Director of Faith Formation

Well, it's that time of the year again, friends. School and extracurricular activities are in full swing. We're creeping up on the holiday season and everyone is busy, busy, busy! You may have noticed in the last few weeks that it is darker in the morning and the sunlight is vanishing more rapidly every evening.

In fact, during October the upper Midwest lost about 1.5 hours of daylight. This is then perpetuated by Daylight Saving Time on November 2nd, when it will be darker even earlier in the evening. With the lack of sunlight you may experience more mood instability. This is commonly known as Seasonal Affective Disorder, or by its accurately descriptive acronym SAD.

SAD is a specific type of depression that occurs during certain seasons of the year; typically in late autumn and winter months, but can occur during any season. It is characterized by increased anxiety, depression, changes in appetite and sleep patterns, and increased irritability, inability to concentrate, and lack of motivation. The actual cause of SAD is unknown but is most likely due to lack of exposure to sunlight, which affects hormones, most notably serotonin and melatonin.

SAD is diagnosed with a thorough evaluation by a medical doctor or psychologist and can be affectively treated with medications, cognitive therapy, and phototherapy (light therapy). SAD can also be managed personally by maintaining exercise, healthy diet, increasing vitamin D intake, and getting as much natural light as possible. If you feel your life is being negatively affected by SAD, there are effective treatments that may help. Don't push aside feelings of depression as a normal "winter funk." Take the initiative to keep yourself well during all seasons of life. Blessings to you, and stay well.

Stephen Ministry

by Curt Olson

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.

Autumn has arrived. With it comes a cooling of temperatures, changing colors of nature, harvest, end to summer activities, and a full schedule of school activities. It can be a time of joy, anticipation, excitement, expectations, and preparation. (Praise God from whom all blessings flow.) But for those who are experiencing any of life's challenges, it can also be a time of sadness, stress, and/or loneliness. If that is the case for you or someone you know, consider talking to someone about what is a concern for you. As I am writing this, we are in the middle of the sermon series on caring for body, mind, and soul. Whether your concern is about body, mind, or soul, a Stephen Minister will walk with you to explore those concerns. Stephen Ministers are trained to actively listen to you confidentially and non-judgmentally in order to provide one-on-one distinctively Christian care. They will walk with you for as long (or short) as the need is there. All you need to do is contact Pr. Tim with a request for a Stephen Minister.

Join Our Savior's Food or Funeral Ministry – Where Fellowship Begins!

Food has always been at the heart of Christian community, and Our Savior's Food Ministry continues this beautiful tradition by bringing people together around shared meals and warm hospitality.

We need YOU to help us serve our growing church family!

What We Do:

Our dedicated volunteers make Sunday mornings welcoming with fresh coffee and donut holes, and we keep our Wednesday night Confirmation students well-fed with hearty, kid-friendly meals. From setting up tables to washing dishes, from brewing coffee to serving lasagna, every task helps create the warm atmosphere that makes our church feel like home.

Our regular ministries include:

- Sunday Coffee Fellowship – Coffee and donut holes every week, plus special treats brought by congregation members on the first Sunday of each month (we'd love your favorite cookies or bars)
- Wednesday Confirmation Meals – Hearty, kid-approved dinners including hotdogs, lasagna, macaroni and cheese, walking tacos, and barbecue sandwiches
- Potlucks – Community meals where everyone contributes a dish
- Seasonal Wednesday Meals – Soul-warming soup and pie during Advent, comforting soup and bread during Lent
- Special Events – Supporting church gatherings throughout the year.
- Funeral Luncheons – Setting up tables, assisting caterers and funeral home staff, and cleaning up after services. These gatherings offer meaningful hospitality to grieving families and visitors from the wider community.

How You Can Help?

No experience necessary – just a willing heart! Whether you have 30 minutes or 3 hours, there's a perfect way for you to contribute:

Set up tables and serve meals; Brew coffee and prepare simple refreshments; Wash dishes and help with cleanup; Light meal preparation; and Bake treats for first-Sunday fellowship

Make a Difference

When you volunteer with the Food or Funeral Ministries, you're doing more than just serving food – you're creating connections, supporting our youth, and showing God's love through hospitality. Plus, many hands make light work, and our volunteer team always enjoys great fellowship while we serve together.

Ready to get involved? We'd love to welcome you to a ministry team!

Can't volunteer but want to help? Consider a cash donation to help us keep up with rising food costs. You'll find our donation box in the Gathering Place.

Contact Lori Strobl lstrobl@oslchurch.com to learn more or to sign up. Thank you for prayerfully considering how you can help nourish our church community!

Our Savior's and Augustana Celebrate Bach Together



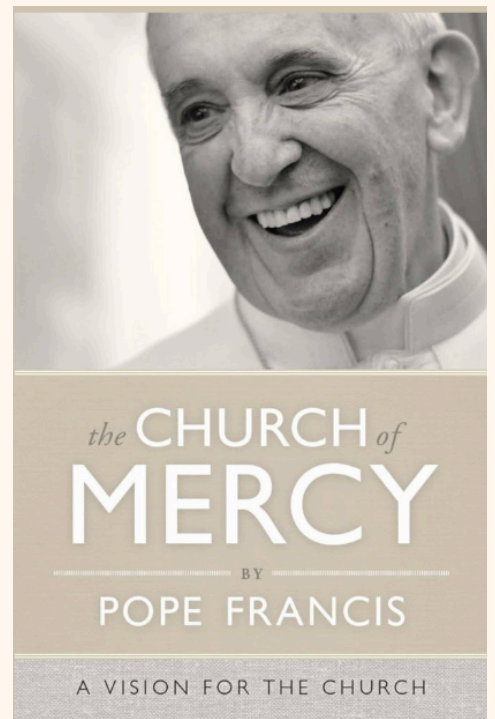
Our Savior's was happy to host the first concert of the season with the Augustana Choir (Russell Svenningsen, conductor) and the Augustana Bach Collegium (David Chin, conductor), along with acclaimed guest soloists! It was a beautiful performance dedicated to teaching our community about Bach and presented in a wonderful space.

Friendship Club

On November 4th at 11a.m., Friendship Club meets for a special program on “Cooking for One or Two.” Registered dietician Kristin from HyVee will share information on healthy cooking, and how to downsize meals after the kids have moved away. She will provide some wonderful recipes and answer any questions you may have. Following her presentation, we will share a Thanksgiving Worship Service together, followed by a special Thanksgiving meal served in the Gathering Place. Bring a friend, and join us for Friendship Club! There is a suggested donation of \$6 for the lunch. A reminder that Friendship Club meets the first Tuesday of each month at 11a.m. with lunch following.

Adult Lifelong Learning

A fall adult learning opportunity will be inspired by the congregation-wide reading of *The Church of Mercy*—a collection of homilies and lectures by the former Pope Francis. In this year of his death, this book powerfully showcases the width and breadth of our shared confessions. On Sunday, November 9th, two “book read” sessions (3:00-4:30p.m. and 6:00-7:30p.m.) will allow for readers to gather for conversation. Contact Pastor Greg with questions.



Community Updates

OSL Statement of Activity - 7.1.25 through 9.30.25	
General Fund Offerings	\$344,929.89
Noisy Offerings	\$1,621.29
Building Use Income	\$17,778.40
Memorials/Estate Gifts	\$5,609.69
All Other Income	\$12,769.67
Total Offerings: July - September	\$382,708.94

Facility Expenses	\$73,923.28
Administration Expenses	\$27,912.61
Personnel	\$246,175.86
Professional Expenses	\$1,061.79
Ministry Teams Expenses	\$38,563.06
Benevolence	\$39,546.49
Total Expenses: July - September	(\$427,183.09)
Net Operating Loss: July - September	(\$44,474.15)

The cash-basis Statement of Activity shared below is a snapshot of the membership's financial support of the General Fund (daily ministry) of Our Savior's Lutheran Church through the first quarter of our fiscal year. We had a great September of offerings! Contributions to the general fund for September 2025 were up approximately 12% from September 2024. Our expenses for the 1st quarter of this fiscal year are just below our budget. Thank you all for your generosity and caring hearts as we continue our mission of planting faith, nurturing hope and sharing God's love!

OSL Foundation News

It was great to see so many people at the breakfast sponsored by the Foundation on September 7. The board members enjoyed helping with the event. The value of Foundation assets recently surpassed \$4 million. This is great news and allows the Foundation to support ministry at Our Savior's in many ways. Since the beginning of 2021, the Foundation has given \$708,800, including an estimated \$152,000 in 2025 to support various ministries. Below in the graph are some major items funded by the Foundation in recent years:

By making a gift now or through your estate, you can support the ministry of our church for many years to come. There are several ways you can give to the Foundation:

- Make a cash gift or memorial gift to honor someone special to you.
- Include the Foundation in your estate planning process.
- Donate appreciated stock or other assets, which may reduce capital gains taxes.
- Make a tax-free distribution from a retirement account.

If you have questions, your financial planner, attorney, or accountant can help you. Lutheran Planned Generosity of South Dakota, located at Augustana University, can also assist you with this process at no cost. OSL Foundation board members have shared they have met with Lutheran Planned Generosity to help with estate planning. They were very satisfied with the no-cost service they received. The OSL Foundation will not refer donors to any particular advisor, but can help you if necessary. Call the Church Office (605-336-2942) or Lutheran Planned Generosity (605-274-5030) for assistance.

Thank you for your support.

Dennis Hanneman

President, Our Savior's Lutheran Church Foundation

Repair bell tower- 2021	Resurface parking lots- 2024
New sound system for celebrate center- 2024	New lighting in main sanctuary- 2024
Repair garage in west parking lot- 2024	TV switcher equipment- 2025
Foreign mission and missionary support- Annual	Funding for parish nursing- 2024 and 2025
Youth camp scholarships and Klein Ranch work trip- 2024 and 2025	Funds to reopen nursery- 2025

Advent at Our Savior's Lutheran Church

The Advent season is a time of joyful anticipation and preparation as we await the birth of Christ. Join us for special Wednesday Advent worship services each week at 6:40p.m. Together we'll pause amidst the busyness of the season to reflect on hope, peace, joy, and love. To start off the month, we will have lunch on December 3rd following noon worship.

Mark your calendars for our Advent Fair on Wednesday, December 3rd, from 5:00-7:00p.m., with worship at 6:40p.m. OSL will provide BBQ and chips, (members are invited to bring bars and goodies), and supper will be served from 5-6:15p.m. All are welcome to join us in creating festive Advent and Christmas crafts to take home. This evening is a wonderful way to celebrate together as a church family and begin the season with faith and fun.

December 10th & 17th, we will have soup and pie following the Noon worship, and evenings from 5:15-6:15p.m. Stay warm and keep full when you share a meal with others from Our Savior's.

On Wednesday, December 17th, our Confirmation students will take part in a special evening of Random Acts of Kindness, spreading joy and generosity throughout our community. It's a beautiful reminder that the heart of Advent is not just waiting but sharing God's love in action. Come and celebrate the wonder of Advent with us at OSL!





Give the Gift of Goodies

The first Sunday of each month, we invite congregation members to bring goodies in for Coffee & Fellowship time. You can bring a dozen (or more!) of your favorite cookies or bars to share. Treats can be brought in at any time during the month, just drop them off at the Church Office.

Vote on the Revised Constitution and Bylaws

We will take the first vote on the revised constitution and bylaws during a Special Congregational Meeting at 10a.m. on November 2nd, with the second vote required to be taken at the annual meeting in January of 2026, per the current constitution. There are copies of the updated documents available at the front office if you wish to get a copy.



New Member Classes

Our next new member class will consist of two sessions, on November 11th and November 18th, from 6p.m.-7p.m. Please contact the church office if you would like to attend, or if you know of someone who does.

Help Decorate the Church for Christmas

Help us decorate the church! We will start decorating for Christmas on Sunday, November 23rd at 5p.m. A light supper will be provided.



Heartland Handbells Christmas Concert

The Heartland Handbells will present their Christmas Concert in our Sanctuary on Sunday, November 23rd at 3 p.m. Admission is free!