



The season of Epiphany is about light. Epiphany reminds us that Christ's light shines in darkness and is carried into the world through ordinary people and everyday lives. I once shared this reflection, and I see it remains true today.

In our church right now at OSL...

Someone is pregnant and hopeful, hopes to be pregnant and is discouraged, passionate and motivated to respond to our world in need, apathetic and dealing with depression, excited about tomorrow, hopes things never change today, excited by the prospects of their new role, overwhelmed by their day-to-day schedule, thoughtfully and prayerfully considering the "next step" in their relationship, thoughtfully and prayerfully reflecting on end-of-life issues, not getting enough sleep at night because of their newborn baby, waking up in the middle of the night terrified by their diagnosis of cancer, grown in their faith as the Holy Spirit led them to a moment of insight, been doubting their faith in God altogether, laughing about great coincidences, angry about unfair circumstances, planning an exciting journey, stuck and unsure how to get unstuck, wishes they could be here with you at OSL, wishes they could get a fresh start somewhere else in the world where no one knows them.

Many things separate us. One thing unites us. The promise we have from God that we are held in a loving relationship that comes each day through the Holy Spirit and the new life in Jesus. In this season of Epiphany, we are reminded that Christ's light shines in all of these places. We are called not only to receive that light but to carry it into the world. We shine when we reflect God's love through compassion, patience, honesty, courage, and hope. We shine when we notice one another, pray for one another, and live as people shaped by the light of Christ for the sake of our neighbors.

May the light of Christ shine in you, and through you, for the sake of the world.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Michael

Christmas Cantata



Worship on 12/20 & 12/21 included a brand new cantata called “Sing We Noel” with Our Savior’s Choir and Orchestra. A cantata is an extended musical composition for choir and orchestra that proclaims the Gospel. The musicians spent extra time to prepare this challenging music and exceeded all expectations. Praise God for a wonderful weekend of worship! Pastors Michael, Tim, and Greg wrapped the service in teaching and prayer beautifully and the sanctuary was full with an enthusiastic congregation!

As J.S. Bach signed most of his compositions – Soli Deo Gloria!
To God alone be the glory!

Augustana University Receives \$5 Million Grant

Augustana University has recently been awarded a \$5 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. for the “promotion and support of religious, educational or charitable purposes.” Augustana is one of 48 recipients in Lilly Endowment’s *National Storytelling Initiative on Christian Faith and Life 2025*.

“We are honored to receive funding from Lilly Endowment through an initiative that aligns so deeply with Augustana’s mission, core values and strategic priorities. Lilly Endowment’s commitment to lifting up stories of Christian faith and life further inspires our efforts to empower young adults to share their faith journeys and strengthen the witness of the church within families and communities across our region and beyond,” said Augustana President Stephanie Herseth Sandlin.

“Storytelling is a deeply vulnerable act and can be intimidating. ‘Sacred Discoveries’ is committed to creating a culture in which storytellers feel safe, supported and empowered to do so on their own terms,” said Rev. Ann Rosendale. “Augustana University will equip a new generation of storytellers who can share God’s faithfulness with clarity, courage and hope wherever their callings lead them.” Augustana expects to officially launch “Sacred Discoveries” in January 2026.

Peace by Piece Quilting Group

I want to express my deepest gratitude for your in-kind donation of Quilts on November 18th. Your donation helps us care for the victims and survivors emerging out of human trafficking in and around South Dakota. Your contribution is directly impacting their lives and is helping them transition from darkness into light. Our desire isn't just to see an end to trafficking, but also help restore the lives of those who have been set free from their bondage and brokenness. Your kindness is what helps give these men, women, children and youth the hope and courage they will need to embrace a new life full of healing, restoration and authentic love. Your gift is a powerful reminder that someone really does care what happens to them. Because of you, we are becoming more equipped every day to not only identify victims and survivors, but offer the services and support they need to successfully transition out of a life of darkness, such as: supportive housing, occupational therapy, addiction services, mental health services, advocacy, transportation, and meaningful employment. In addition, our aftercare services help survivors rediscover their true identity and purpose while empowering them to become productive members of their communities, families and relationships.

On behalf of myself and the CTF staff, we can now offer HOPE to those who deserve it the most.

Thank you for answering the call, the Call to Freedom!

You truly are making a difference.

Sincerely, Becky Rasmussen

Call to Freedom, Chief Executive Officer

director@calltofreedom.org



Caring for others

When writing about OSL's Caring Ministries, I often think of people who have a special title or designated role. For example, I may think of our Visitation Pastors, Stephen Ministers, bereavement counselors, or youth leaders. While these people are indeed caregivers, I believe all of us are caregivers, with or without a title.

It was my neighbor who showed up in my driveway with her snowblower, uninvited, to clear my driveway because my snowblower had failed to work one day. She came back the next day to do it again after the snowplows went by. What wonderful caregiving! And what a blessing for both of us. And what about someone who speaks up and says, "Are you looking for these?" And, oh what a smile can do, for both the giver and the receiver.

I truly believe all of us are in need of care. The care we need is offered to us many times each day, if we pay attention to our needs, as well as the needs of others. As the noted theologian Henri Nouwen writes, "We want to help. We want to do something for people in need. We want to offer consolation to those who are in grief and alleviate suffering to those who are in pain. There is obviously nothing wrong with that desire. It is a noble and grace-filled desire. But unless we realize that God's blessing is coming to us from those we want to serve, our help will be short-lived, and eventually we may feel burned out (p.65)."

So, what is this blessing? Nouwen would say "It is a glimpse of the face of God. Seeing God is what heaven is all about! We can see God in the face of Jesus, and we can see Jesus in the face of those who need our care. We so much need a blessing. Those in need of our care are waiting to bless us (p.66)."

In embracing this view, we come to understand that caring for others is not solely about giving; it is also about receiving. Each act of compassion, no matter how small, opens our eyes to the divine presence in our midst. When we serve others with genuine love, we are blessed with a glimpse of God's face. These encounters will go on to renew our spirit and deepen our faith. As we look for opportunities to care, let us remember that in doing so, we are participating in God's grace, becoming both the caregivers and the cared for, witnesses to His love in the world.

Henri J M Nouwen. (2011). A spirituality of caregiving. Upper Room Books.
(Available in the OSL library)



Library News



Beyond The Books

From Kristie Schreck, Library Coordinator

Library Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9a.m.-Noon;

Wed. 9a.m.-6p.m (NEW).; Sat. 4:30-6p.m.;

Sun. 9:30a.m-12:15p.m. | www.oslchurch.com/library/

Wrapping Up the Year

OSL generously reached out to the wonderful staff at Susan B. Anthony with a delightful surprise to celebrate the end of 2025! They blessed the team with delicious bagels, creamy cream cheese, tape, and rolls of paper to help them "wrap up" the year in style. It was a small gesture to show appreciation for all their hard work and dedication. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated and made this possible! Everyone's kindness truly made a difference!



Beyond the Books is sponsored by the Rita & Bob Elmen Community Library and hosted by Our Savior's Lutheran Church. This will be a time to celebrate the stories that inspire us, the authors who craft them, and the experiences that bring them to life. Because it's not just about the *books*, it's about the *experience*. This will be a two-day literary event with a Gala and Literary Festival featuring: Allen Eskens, Lorna Landvik, Stu Whitney, and Paul LaRoche Friday, April 24 and Saturday, April 25, 2026 at 909 W 33rd St, Sioux Falls, SD Join us for both days or just the Festival! Scan the QR code to purchase your ticket.

- Gala + Festival: \$100
- Festival Only: \$50



JANUARY

ABC (A Book & Coffee) with Kristie



Daily Meditations

Monday
January 5th, 2026

TIME
1:00pm-2:00pm

Space is limited to 10 participants! Pick up your free copy of the book & attend the book talk in the OSL Community Library!



Author

Kenneth Iseminger
Former SFSD Principal
OSL Church Member

Contact Us For More Information:

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Community Updates:

OSL Statement of Activity - 7.1.25 through 11.30.25

General Fund Offerings	\$614,208.37
Noisy Offerings	\$2,697.15
Building Use Income	\$23,976.36
Memorials/Estate Gifts	\$5,659.69
Designated Gifts	\$42,960.00
Spiritual Care Donations	\$13,867.65
Youth Ministry/Lifelong Learning Donations	\$13,512.00
TV Ministry & Worship Donations	\$7,150.00
Discipleship Income – Food Ministry & Events	\$5,298.42
Hockey Parking	\$5,072.00
Total Offerings: July - November	\$734,401.64
Facility Expenses	\$111,415.99
Administration Expenses	\$46,640.31
Personnel	\$397,660.10
Professional Expenses	\$2,512.96
Ministry Teams Expenses	\$58,289.54
Benevolence	\$80,922.02
Total Expenses: July - November	(\$697,440.92)
Net Operating Income: July - November	\$36,960.72

The cash-basis Statement of Activity is a snapshot of the membership's financial support of the General Fund (daily ministry) of Our Savior's Lutheran Church through November. We did have a November deficit as our general fund offerings for November came in at \$102,523.45 and our total income was \$115,350.30. Our expenses for November ended at \$130,545.40. However, our fiscal year-to-date net operating income is still positive through November!

For due diligence, I do want to note that this financial snapshot does not consider depreciation expenses for OSLC. Our monthly depreciation expense is approximately \$32,000. If you ever want to know more about our finances, feel free to come visit me anytime and we can talk numbers

Numbers aside, we are blessed to be a part of something so much greater than ourselves. Jesus is alive and well here at OSL and within us all. It is easy to see that each time we enter through the doors and share kindness, love, and our faith with one another.

May blessings and gratitude be abundant in the new year of 2026.

Rudy Kreyer
OSL Director of Operations

Faith & Ferment

Thursday, January 8, from 7-8:30 p.m. we will meet at the Roundhouse Brew Pub (1515 E 69th St, Sioux Falls.) This night will be a chance to continue conversations about current social concerns we face. Spirit-led conversations over topics like the proper use of artificial intelligence or the removal of barriers that lead to pockets of hunger here in South Dakota. Contact the Church Office with questions. We look forward to a productive conversation in a welcoming space.

Thank you for being considerate to our family, family and neighbors and for helping us all stay as healthy as possible.



Friendship Club

We are happy to welcome back Phyllis Arends as the speaker for Friendship Club on January 6th. Phyllis is a longtime advocate for people whose lives are touched by mental illness. Her passion for helping those living with serious mental illness diagnoses began while she was a nurse at 5th Street Connection. She then made it her mission to educate the public that these are medical illnesses like any other medical illness. They just happen to affect the most important organ in our body – the brain. She brings a message of understanding and hope to those who are on this journey to mental wellness.

Phyllis and others joined together to start a nonprofit organization, Empire Mental Health Support, dedicated to providing community outreach and education to help dispel myths and misperceptions about mental illnesses. Empire Mental Health Network also offers peer led support groups both in-person and hybrid for adults with the lived experience of mental illness and their loved ones. Empire Mental Health Support is also the local advocacy group working to improve the system of care for those who live with the most serious diagnoses. Treatment works, but only if it is accessible, affordable and effective.

Even though winter is just beginning, we're already looking ahead to summer adventures at Bible Camp! Camp has long been a meaningful part of life at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, giving kids and youth space to learn about faith, build friendships, and experience God's love through creation, community, and fun. We're excited to share our Summer 2026 camp opportunities for OSL children and youth.

Middle School Camp | Outlaw Ranch



June 14–19, 2026 | Grades currently in sixth-grade through eighth-grade middle schoolers are invited to spend a week in the beautiful Black Hills at Outlaw Ranch Bible Camp with Madeline and Pastor Michael. Campers will enjoy hiking, horseback riding, games, Bible study, and worship under the stars, all while being part of a welcoming Christian community where they are known and supported.

Elementary Camp | Nesodak Bible Camp

July 3–5, 2026 | Grades currently in 3–5 Our elementary campers will head to Nesodak Bible Camp for a week filled with cabin life, campfires, swimming, crafts, singing, and learning about God's love. I will be on site with our group, supporting campers throughout the week and sharing in this special camp experience.



Registration & Payment

Camp registration is coordinated through OSL. When registering online, families will use the Group Hold **Code: OSLSF26** to connect their camper to our church group. Parents will need to create or log into a camp account to complete registration. All camp payments will be made through OSL, and the church will submit one combined payment to the camp. Please make checks out to Our Savior's Lutheran Church with the camp on the memo line. To secure spots and qualify for Early Bird pricing, families should complete registration by **March 1**. (Please note: the group code holds a spot but does not guarantee Early Bird pricing after the camp deadline.)

Camp Scholarships Available

OSL is committed to making camp accessible for all families. Camp scholarships are available to all OSL members attending any Lutheran Bible Camp (up to half the Early Bird cost). Scholarship applications are made possible by the Study or Serve Award (SOSA) scholarship account and applications can be found at the bottom of the Youth and Children Tab on our website!

Faith in Action: A Confirmation Service Project



As part of Confirmation at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, students complete five hours of service both inside and outside the church. For 6th grader Evan Peterman, this became an opportunity to respond to a community need. After learning about recent SNAP benefit cuts and seeing our congregation's support for local food ministries, Evan organized a food drive from his home, donating three boxes of non-perishable items to local food banks. Evan's project exemplifies Confirmation's goal: helping young people recognize community needs and respond with compassion. We hope that as children grow in faith, they'll see that loving God means loving neighbors in tangible ways. We're grateful for Evan's thoughtfulness, initiative, and generosity, and for the reminder that faith, no matter the age, can make a real difference.

A Joyful Night at the Advent Fair

Our Advent Fair was a wonderful evening of fellowship, creativity, and celebration! Members enjoyed crafts, cookie decorating, woodshop projects, and a shared meal, filling the church with laughter and conversation. Thank you to the many volunteers who gave their time and talents, from the kitchen and woodshop teams to our craft leaders and helpers. The Advent Fair continues to be a meaningful tradition at OSL, offering time to prepare our hearts for the arrival of Christ's birth!

The Christmas Program Recap

What a joy it was to gather and watch our children bring the nativity story to life in The Story of God's Grand Miracle. From our youngest Frolic students dressed as sheep to our confident elementary students, each child played a meaningful role in sharing the good news of Jesus' birth. We are so grateful for the many children who participated, the families who supported them, and the volunteers who helped guide rehearsals, costumes, music, and logistics along the way. Watching over 75 kids proclaim the Christmas story with such joy and enthusiasm was a beautiful reminder of how faith is planted, nurtured, and shared within our community. I hope you had a very Merry Christmas!



Random Acts of Kindness in Action

This December, both our Confirmation students and High School Youth Group took part in separate Random Acts of Kindness nights, spreading joy throughout our community in simple but powerful ways.

Thanks to the generosity of the OSL congregation, we raised \$1,300, which was used to create 26 kindness cards, each containing a \$50 bill and a Christmas blessing note. Students went out in small groups, praying, watching, and listening for moments where they could share kindness with others. These nights were not just about giving money, but about learning to notice the needs of others, stepping outside comfort zones, and trusting God to work through small acts of generosity. We are grateful for a congregation that empowers our youth to live out their faith in tangible ways and for students who are willing to live out God's love in our community.



Food Ministry Announcement

Our **Annual Meeting & Potluck** is scheduled for **Sunday, January 25**. We invite all members to join us for fellowship, planning, and of course—great food!

Potluck Details: Members are encouraged to bring: hotdishes / casseroles, side dishes & desserts. A **sign-up sheet** will be available at the **Welcome Center** after the New Year.

A Big Thank You! We want to express our heartfelt thanks to everyone who brought goodies on **December 14th**. Your generosity was overwhelming—we received enough to stock our freezer for upcoming church events.

Thank you for keeping us well supplied and supporting this ministry!

Pastor Greg's Interim Call Come to its End

Dear Our Savior's: The time has come to announce that my work as your Associate Interim Pastor will be concluding on Sunday, February 1. I have been amazed at what God has done and is doing in this special place. My nineteen months of work within this spirited congregation will be remembered as "icing on the cake" as I look back on forty years of ministry.

When I agreed to come and serve alongside Pastors Tim Lemme and Paul Svingen in early June of 2024, it was made clear that upon the installation of the new lead pastor (Welcome Pastor Michael!) that I would remain on staff for a set of weeks as ministry assignments and work in progress could be handed off. Interim calls—by their very design and definition--must come to an end. That is all happening now! I have sat with Pastors Tim and Michael, with office staff, Human Resources and Congregation Council leadership in making sure that we don't lose momentum as OSL transitions into its next season of discernment.

So let me be as clear as I can about my last weeks. In January, I am going to part-time status—working full-time in the first half of January and slowly less upon Pastor Michael's return from Egypt on the 19th of the month. My direct work with Community Library Coordinator Kristie Schreck and Faith Formation Director Madeline Trosvig is easily being transitioned to Pastor Michael. As well, my assignment as liaison to the Outreach and Evangelism Team (Faith and Ferment and Klein Ranch events) and my seat at the Stewardship Committee table will also be assumed by Pastor Michael.

The conclusion of Our Savior's need for interim pastors is to be celebrated. You have bravely faced forward into "what's next?" for the congregation. With Pastors Michael and Tim fully engaged, the door is now open to begin asking who will come and add their talents to the pastoral ministry team?...all to be discovered with the same prayerfulness that has already helped us begin to shine.



Many, thousand thanks,
Pastor Greg Johnson





On December 2nd, Friendship Club celebrated the joy of the Christmas season at the Old Nora Store. Thank you to everyone for making this such a special day! The Nora Store, a historic 1907 general store in tiny Nora, South Dakota, is famous for its decades-long Christmas tradition started by owner Mike Pedersen, who turned the closed building into a festive carol-singing destination with a pipe organ, attracting visitors from across the Midwest!

Pastor Michael's Installation



Associate to the Bishop Rev. Renee Splichal Larson was at Our Savior's Lutheran Church for the installation of Rev. Michael Stadtmueller as Lead Pastor this past weekend. Thank you to all that came!



St. Olaf Choir performing at Our Savior's

The St. Olaf Choir, conducted by Anton Armstrong will perform at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, South Dakota on Friday, January 30 at 8 p.m. during its 2026 National Tour. For more than a century, the St. Olaf Choir has set the gold standard for choral singing, performing for millions around the world. Composed of 75 mixed voices, the St. Olaf Choir is hailed as one of the nation's premier a cappella ensembles, renowned for its artistry and beauty of sound. Tickets are \$30 and \$10 for all students, available at stolaf.edu/tickets/choir or 800-363-5487. "We seek to be a transforming force in society through choral performance, bringing understanding, mercy, justice, peace, and hope to a world that desperately cries out for these things." - Anton Armstrong

3 week Bible Study offering with Pastor Michael

From Pastor Michael - "For the next year I plan to offer a variety of 3-4 week bible studies. Each time I will offer an evening time and a day time. I hope you will look for these throughout the year and find one you can attend. All are welcome.

No experience necessary."

Bible Study with Pastor Michael

Outsiders, Authority and Surprise - Understanding the Gospel of Matthew

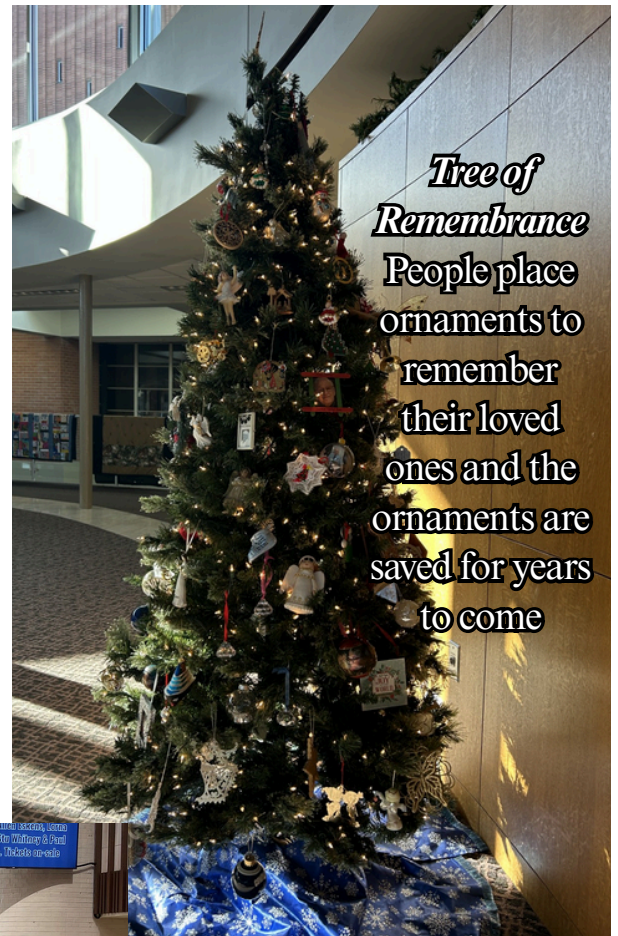
Times: Wednesdays at 11AM

January 21st, January 28th, February 4th

Thursdays at 7PM

January 22nd, January 29th, February 5th

Location: Friendship Room





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Worship is central to Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

We offer two distinct worship styles:

A traditional (organ/piano) service in our Sanctuary on Saturday evening at
5:00 p.m. and on Sundays at 11:00 a.m.

Our Contemporary service is on Sunday 8:45 a.m. service in the Celebrate
Center with our praise band inspiring our time together



Facebook



OSL Website



YouTube Live
(Recommended)



Facebook Live

Watch our Celebrate worship at 9:00 a.m. on Fox station KDLT.

Watch our Festive worship on cable channel 30 at 1:00 p.m.