



In my window are two signs. One I shared in a children's sermon that says, "No matter where you are from, we're glad you're our neighbor." The other says, "Grace changes everything."

I have been wrestling with what it means to be the people of God in this world today and in our own country. On Sunday in worship, I mentioned that on my recent trip to Egypt, as we were all about to board planes, news was just beginning to come in about the shooting of Renee Good. With about a third of the pastors on my trip coming from the Twin Cities, it hit especially close to home. Pastors were asking how we make sense of this moment and how we speak about it faithfully.

How do we reconcile the disconnect our world is experiencing? How do we hold our compassion, our longing for justice, and our faith in a loving God together when headlines and events feel so broken? How do we remain true to our calling to love our neighbor in a deeply divided world?

I do not have all the answers, but I am convinced that the season of Lent invites us not to turn away from these questions, but to live into them with honesty and hope. Lent names what is broken in us and around us and calls us to notice where God is already at work blessing, healing, and gathering us into new life. Our nation is experiencing a difficult time but we are not without hope.

This year our Wednesday Night Lenten series is titled Broken and Blessed, and I hope it will be a time of deep reflection and encouragement for you. On Wednesdays in worship, beginning on Ash Wednesday February 18th we will name our brokenness and bring it honestly before God. I am reminded again and again that God's grace often shows up not despite the brokenness, but within it.

As we walk through Lent, let us be honest about what wounds us. Let us reach for compassion where pain is sharpest. And let us hold loosely but faithfully to the promise that grace truly does change everything.

I look forward to walking this holy season with you.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Michael Stadtmueller

Thank You and God's Speed

In these last end-of-January days of serving OSL as your Interim Associate pastor, I simply wish to put in writing my heartfelt thanks for the nineteen months of ministry that we have had. Both my wife, Nancy, and I, and some of our extended family, have been swept along with this congregation's belief in God's presence among and purpose for us. So now—in appreciation for your kind words and gestures of farewell— I simply say to you “God's speed!” as you commit to being a Jesus people with your new pastoral ministry team wonderfully coming together!

Many, many thanks, Pastor Greg Johnson

(p.s. I am thankful for Pastors Tim and Michael and their steady invitation for my family to keep attending worship (and Sunday School for our grandkids). That hospitality is a generous sending gift.)

Cabin Fever at OSL through February!

When the seasons turn cold, it is easy to stay stuck inside your space. OSL is offering indoor activities throughout the building that offer new ways to get involved.

SAIL (Registration Required) | Starting February 9th on Mondays & Thursdays at 10 a.m.

Workout Wednesdays | February 18th & 25th

Pickleball | Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Mahjong | Tuesdays from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Woodshop Ministry | Wednesdays from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. & Saturdays 8 a.m. - Noon

Good Grief Group | Thursdays from 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Knitting Group | 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Conversations with God | Wednesdays from 9AM-10:30AM

OSL Bell Choir | Tuesday from 5 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.

Coffee Hour with Pastor Michael | This February on Mondays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Book Covering | 3rd Wednesday of the month; February 18th from 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Coffee and Fellowship | Sundays from 9:30 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.

Card Recycling Group | Wednesdays from 9 a.m. - Noon

Friendship Club | 1st Tuesday of the month; February 4th at 11 a.m.

Middle School Fun Day | February 16th from 9 a.m. - Noon

President's Day Break Story Time | Tuesday, February 17th from 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Intro to Bird Watching | February 25th at 7 p.m.

Diaper Drive at OSL *NOW through February.*

Donations can be brought to the Church Office.

Sizes 5 & 6 are highly requested at this time! Thank you and if you are unable to lift the box you may make a cash donation in lieu of diapers at the Church Office!

Library News

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/

2026 is looking BRIGHT!

A grand slam for our library! We are beyond excited to share with everyone that we had a milestone in our community library this week! Within a 2-hour time frame, we had preschool story time happening in the kids' section, a homeschool family with a mom and 4 children learning and engaged at the study tables, adult patrons enjoying conversations by the windows with the sunshine streaming through, and other patrons browsing, checking out books, buying Valentine cards and gift bags, and making a cup of coffee in the front of the library! A HUGE shout out to our volunteers who make this library a welcoming environment where all feel welcome!



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



FEBRUARY

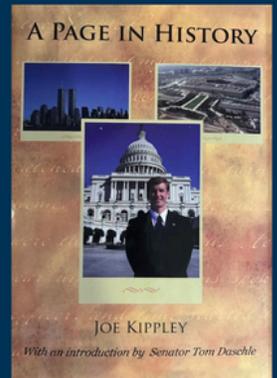
ABC

(A Book & Coffee)
with
Kristie

THURSDAY
February 12th, 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
Joe Kippley
Former Page under Senator Tom Daschle during 9/11.

Contact Us For More Information:

605-336-2942

kschreck@oslchurch.com

Chorus-pondence

Happy New Year! Pastor Michael has shared a theme for Our Savior's for 2026 – "Shine!" From a worship perspective I immediately thought of the songs "This Little Light of Mine," "Shine, Jesus, Shine," and at least 10 other songs that the lyrics use the word shine. In the Bible there are many examples of "shine" and I noticed that in the Old Testament that most of the uses of "shine" refer to the light of God, and in the New Testament most of the uses of "shine" refer to the people of God letting their light shine.

Another song that I recall that relates to shine is "Thy Word" based on Psalm 119:105 – "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." I remember one hike as a young boy in the northern woods of Minnesota and getting lost with my two younger brothers. The sun went down and there wasn't a star to be seen making it extremely dark. My brothers were a little nervous and upset with me as they walked in line having a hand on the shoulder ahead of them. Being in front I was terrified not knowing where we were and how we would find our campsite. A couple of hours into the darkness we saw a lamp in the distance that was moving. It was dad, looking for us, and eventually we made it to him and got back to safety.

On the path of life, God's Word will be a lamp unto our feet to show us where we are and it will be a light to our path to show us where we are going. Holy God, give us faith to trust You for Our Savior's next step and the next steps after.

From Gene LeVasseur, Director of Worship



Our Savior's Christmas Decorating "Elves" 2025

Current Happenings and Activities

A 3-Week Lenten Bible Study exploring Israel's complicated relationship with Egypt.

Lent invites us to tell the truth about what is broken, and to notice where God is still at work blessing and protecting. In this Bible study, we will explore Egypt as a place of refuge in Scripture through the stories of Joseph in Genesis, and the Holy Family's flight into Egypt.

Together we will reflect on displacement, fear, obedience, and survival, and consider how God works quietly within broken circumstances. This is a discussion-based study, open to questions, and welcoming of all levels of biblical experience.

Broken and Blessed - Joseph. Egypt. Jesus as a Refugee.

Beginning Monday, February 23 and Thursday February 26th

Mondays at 6:00 PM | Thursdays at 3:00 PM

Led by Pastor Michael

Each session covers the same material.

Attend whichever time works best for you.

♥ All are welcome. ♥

Lent Soup & Bread Meals

Ash Wednesday, February 18

Lunch at 1 pm | Supper 5-6:15 pm

Wednesday

Feb. 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25

Lunch at 12:30 pm | Supper 5-6:15 pm

Friendship Club



Our speaker for Friendship Club on January 6th brought a message of understanding and hope to those who are on a journey to mental wellness. There was a packed house, and we all enjoyed a wonderful lunch afterwards in the Gathering Place. Join us again on February 3rd as Pr. Michael shares with us pictures and stories from his recent trip to Egypt. We will meet in the Gathering Place at 11:00, followed by lunch in the Gathering Place, suggested donation of \$6.00 per person.



Story Time & Open Play for Kids

Families with young children are invited to join us for another Story Time in the Library, followed by open play in the nursery on Tuesday, February 17th, from 10:00–11:00 AM. We'll begin with some stories and time together, followed by open play in our newly refreshed nursery space. This open play time is a chance to introduce families to our brand new nursery, which is now open and operating on Sunday mornings. Come explore the space, check out some books, and connect with other families.

We hope to see you there!

A Grateful Farewell to Pastor Greg

As we prepare to say goodbye to Pastor Greg in his role as our interim pastor, I find myself feeling deeply grateful for the gift he has been to Our Savior's Lutheran Church, especially within our Sunday School and Confirmation ministries. Pastor Greg and I began our time at OSL around the same time in the summer of 2024, during a season of transition and change. Those early months required patience, flexibility, and a willingness to rebuild, and Pastor Greg met that season with openness and grace. Together, we worked hard to strengthen and reimagine our youth programming, always keeping our kids and families at the heart of the work. Pastor Greg consistently created space for my voice, encouraged new ideas, and trusted me to try things that were sometimes bold, sometimes messy, but always rooted in Christ's love. Greg's support, wisdom, and calm presence have shaped not only our programs, but also my own growth in ministry.

While it is hard to say goodbye, I feel hopeful and ready for what comes next. I am thankful for the foundation Pastor Greg helped build, and I look forward to continuing the work of faith formation alongside our new Lead Pastor, Michael Stadtmueller. Pastor Greg, thank you for your patience, your leadership, and the love you poured into OSL. You will be missed more than you know!



Vacation Bible School - Register Now

Get ready for an exciting week at Vacation Bible School at Our Savior's Lutheran Church! Our theme this summer is "Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God."

Throughout the week, kids will dive into the Psalms and plunge into a lifelong adventure of discovering the nature of God. Together, they'll explore what it means to be rooted in a relationship with God, our Creator and a safe place in life's storms. VBS will take place Monday–Thursday, June 1–4, from 8:30 AM to Noon and is open to children ages 3 years old (must be fully potty trained) through 5th grade.

Registration is free and opens on February 1 for both kids and volunteers.

♥ Link to sign up: vbspro.events/p/0645d6 ♥

We can't wait to explore, sing, play, and grow in faith together this summer!



Getting Ready for Lent: 2026 Confirmation Retreat

On January 11th, Our Confirmation students spent a meaningful day at Shetek Lutheran Ministries on a retreat, growing together in faith and friendship. The day focused on worship and preparing our hearts for Lent, as students explored our upcoming Lenten theme, Broken & Blessed. Together with their guides, students reflected on confession and forgiveness and helped write words that will be used during our Wednesday night Lenten worship services. It was a powerful reminder that God meets us in both our brokenness and our blessings, and we are grateful for the thoughtful engagement and faith of our Confirmation students and their leaders!



Community Updates:

OSL Statement of Activity - 7.1.25 through 12.31.25	
General Fund Offerings	\$825,848.82
Noisy Offerings	\$2,872.45
Building Use Income	\$28,231.36
Building & Renovation Fund	\$18,800.00
Memorials/Estate Gifts	\$5,709.69
OSL Foundation Income	\$8,280.44
Designated Gifts	\$50,760.00
Spiritual Care Donations	\$14,652.65
Youth Ministry/Lifelong Learning Donations	\$15,386.00
Beyond the Books 2026 Income	\$2,275.00
TV Ministry & Worship Donations	\$19,450.00
Discipleship Income – Food Ministry & Events	\$7,091.94
Hockey Parking	\$11,315.00
Total Offerings: July - December	\$1,010,673.35
Facility Expenses	\$141,512.12
Administration Expenses	\$57,899.50
Personnel	\$489,873.57
Professional Expenses	\$3,623.07
Ministry Teams Expenses	\$81,683.62
Benevolence	\$92,047.32
Total Expenses: July - December	(\$866,639.20)
Net Operating Income: July - December	\$144,034.15

The summarized 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 December. Our December general fund offerings came in at \$211,640.45 to put our YTD general fund offerings at \$825,848.82. Our general fund offerings were at \$852,403.83 from July – December 31 last year, which puts us slightly behind in general fund offerings by comparison. Our total expenses through December this year are \$866,639.20 compared to \$994,147.83 from July – December 2024. That is a reduction of \$127,508.63 in expenses year over year and we are right in line with our 2026 Fiscal Year budget.

This is wonderful news as the numbers are aligning with our ministry plan and reduced budget for 2026! We thank you all for your continued generosity and support as we focus our attention on the new year.

May 2026 be filled with blessings, courage, and compassion, as we continue to share God's love and hope with each other and the world. "And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up." - Galatians 6:9

Calling all Thrivent Members!

Our Savior's Lutheran Church is excited to share we are part of the Thrivent Choice® approved non-profit list. If you are a Thrivent Member, please consider directing your Thrivent Choice dollars to support OSL. Reminder: All 2025 Thrivent Choice dollars expire March 31, 2026.

Faith & Ferment

Tuesday, February 3rd, 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 where all are welcome!

“Won't You Be My Neighbor?": Care, Presence, and the Ministry of Listening

“A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood, the story of Fred ‘Mr.’ Rogers”, has been on my list of movies to watch for a long time. I remember watching the TV show as a kid, and I have read many positive references about Fred Rogers over the years. Even so, the movie enlightened and surprised me by its artistic and therapeutic approach. The movie is not as much about his famous television show, but is instead about his philosophy of being a caring presence towards others. Mr. Rogers did not rush people toward quick fixes or right answers. Instead, he slowed down, spent time with people, and created space for feelings that most of us are taught to hide. His patient, caring presence became a form of healing not just for children, but also adults as the movie portrays.

Like Fred Rogers, Stephen Ministers offer something increasingly rare in our hurried world: consistent, compassionate presence. They listen without judgment. They sit with any emotion without trying to rush it away. They honor the sacred dignity of another person's story.

This is deeply Christian work. Jesus himself practiced this ministry of presence. He noticed and took time for people others overlooked. He asked questions. He wept with those who mourned. He did not fear silence or suffering, but cared enough to wade into it with a compassionate heart and an empathetic ear.

Stephen Ministry follows this model. A Stephen Minister walks alongside someone during a season of difficulty—grief, illness, loneliness, life transition—not as an expert, but as a companion. The care offered is confidential, Christ-centered, and rooted in love.

One of my favorite quotes from the movie is, “Anything that's human is mentionable, and anything that is mentionable can be more manageable.” Stephen Ministry embodies this truth. When people are given the opportunity to share their experiences in a safe and faithful relationship, hope quietly takes root.

In a world that too often values quick answers and visible strength, Stephen Ministry reminds us that love doesn't have to be flashy or complicated. It looks like being present today to a neighbor nearby.

SAIL (Staying Active and Independent for Life)

A SAIL class is offered at Our Savior's and runs all year long, with breaks in between sessions. This course is offered for adults 65+ and offers an aerobic workout, balance, and strengthening. Our new twelve-week session is starting on February 9th and will be Monday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m.

to 10:00 a.m. If interested, contact 605-336-2942 and ask for OSL Faith Community Nurse Lea DeLay.



Workout Wednesdays

Every Wednesday a 30-minute workout class runs in the Hub with an option to walk after class!

Every week we meet at 10 a.m. on Wednesdays and it runs all year long.

Please call the Church Office for more information!



909 West 33rd Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

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Contact Information

Church Office 605-336-2942 info@oslchurch.com

Rev. Michael Stadtmueller - Lead Pastor

- mstadtmueller@oslchurch.com

Rev. Tim Lemme - Pastor of Spiritual Care Ministries

- tlemme@oslchurch.com

Gene LeVasseur – Director of Worship and Music

- glevasseur@oslchurch.com

Madeline Trosvig – Director of Faith Formation

- mtrosvig@oslchurch.com

Rudy Kreyer – Director of Church Operations

- rkreyer@oslchurch.com

Lori Strobl – Church Operations Coordinator

- lstrobl@oslchurch.com

Isabelle Thorson – Office Professional

- ithorson@oslchurch.com

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. 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.