

the *light* between us

Have you thought about your connection points? They are the places where relationships grow, faith deepens, and we are reminded that we are part of something larger than ourselves.

Worship is one of our central connection points at Our Savior's, and I am grateful that so many of you make worship a priority, whether you join us in person or worship with us online. Gathering around Word and Sacrament matters. It connects us to God and to one another. It also is one of the few place of connection in all of society where you can find 5 generations interacting together.

But worship is only one of the places where those connections are happening. Just this past week, 46 confirmation students and their small group leaders gathered to study Scripture and grow together in faith. 60 people participated in our two weekly Bible studies I lead on Tuesdays and Thursdays. On Wednesday evening, 10 young adults gathered for Bible study and conversation. Our Women's Circles bring together another 30 people each month around God's Word. And 24 children, alongside 15 adults, were part of Kids Club on the first night. That is almost 200 Bible study connections right there!

Those are wonderful numbers, but what excites me most is what is behind them: people learning together, asking questions together, building relationships, sharing their lives, and discovering where God is at work.

That is The Light Between Us.

The church is at its best when we don't simply attend, but connect. When we know one another. When we learn from one another. When we make room for someone new. When we discover that faith was never meant to be lived alone.

So come. Come to worship. Come to Bible study. Come to Kids Club, a Women's Circle, Faith & Ferment, a service opportunity, the quilters or an exercise group. Or join one of the many other groups where people gather at OS�.

Come, not because we need to fill a room.

Come because there is light between us, and it grows brighter when we share it.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Michael Stadtmueller

Fall Festival at Our Savior's!

Written by Madeline Trosvig

Get your costumes ready and join us for our Fall Festival on Wednesday, October 14, from 6:00–7:00 PM! Come early and bring your appetite for a fundraiser pizza dinner from 5:15–6:00 PM, served by our high school youth for their trip to the 2027 ELCA National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis. Pizza will be for sale at \$3 per slice, with all proceeds supporting the trip. Then at 6:00, the Fall Festival fun begins! Kids will get to make their own trick-or-treating bags, take on an obstacle course in the gym, and end the evening by showing off their costumes in a costume parade. Our Confirmation students will help make the evening happen by running the craft and gym stations, while our high schoolers will be busy at the pizza station. Come in costume and join us for a fun fall evening of food, laughter, and community at Our Savior's!

OSL's 80th Anniversary Potluck

Thank you to everyone who made OSL's 80th Anniversary Potluck a success! We had a wonderful evening, filled with music, memories, good food, laughter, and community!

Thank you to everyone who came, and to all who helped make this celebration possible. We are thankful for the last 80 years at OSL and we can't wait for many more to come!



New Member Class

Interested in becoming a member? Want to know more about Our Savior's? Sign up at the Welcome Desk or this QR code, and join us at 10am between worship services in October.

October 11th: Getting to know you - led by Pastor Tim

October 18th: Church Identity - led by Pastor Michael

October 25th: Tour of ministry areas

November 1st: New Member Recognition (all services)



Faith & Ferment | November 5th

Faith & Ferment will be on Thursday, November 5th at 7pm. We will meet at Roundhouse Brew Pub for a time of conversation and fellowship. You are invited to join us!

Kick-Off Sunday

We had a great Kick-Off Sunday! We enjoyed good food, worship, and time in community. Enjoy these pictures from our Ministry Fair, highlighting just a few of our wonderful ministry areas here at OSL!



Young Adult in Global Mission: Maggie Dobbins

This year, Our Savior's has the opportunity to follow along with Maggie Dobbins, a Young Adult in Global Mission (YAGM) serving in Mexico City!

Maggie is originally from St. Paul, Minnesota, and recently graduated from Pacific Lutheran University, where she studied Environmental Studies, Religion, and Biology. Through the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission program, Maggie is spending ten months serving at CEAHPAZ, a shelter for migrant families and families displaced from other parts of Mexico. Maggie hopes to spend this year building authentic relationships and learning what it means to practice accompaniment and mutuality—walking alongside others with humility, curiosity, and openness. She is especially excited to learn from the people and community at CEAHPAZ as she continues discerning her own sense of vocation and calling.

As part of her YAGM year, Maggie is raising \$10,000 to support YAGM and her year of service. If you would like to learn more about Maggie or financially support her year, visit her fundraising page by scanning the QR Code. We also invite the Our Savior's community to keep Maggie, the community at CEAHPAZ, and all YAGM volunteers in prayer throughout the year. Maggie will be sending newsletters from Mexico as she serves, and we look forward to sharing those updates with the Our Savior's community!

An OSL connection: Our Director of Faith Formation, Madeline Trosvig, is also a YAGM alum and served in Szeged, Hungary, during the 2023–2024 program year.



Confirmation: “The Basics of Faith”

(everyone come to class on October 28th ...really!)

Our Confirmation year is off to a great start! Lots of new faces. More adults guiding our small group break-out sessions. More of an emphasis upon involving our 6th-8th graders in the servant life of the congregation—both within and outside the walls of Our Savior’s.

October will be a very busy month for our confirmands. Coming off of our September 30th “ministry fair” (where our kids could choose how they will help make worship happen within the church: i.e. to serve Holy Communion; usher; read lessons; acolyte; sing/play instruments in a praise team), we will see some of that involvement getting all trained up this month.

At the heart of it all, is to have our kids find in the Bible living words that help us grow into a maturity of faith. What are the great words of faith upon which we build our lives? The 6-8th grade kids will make the list of those words and then use them to write a song or a worship piece for the November 1st Confirmation service (8:45 a.m.) for our 9th graders. Martin Luther’s greatest gift to the Protestant church was to set common folks free to discover for themselves the source of daily, serving strength. That’s our work for this coming year.

So, be mindful of the October calendar for Confirmation:

- October 7th Class in the Hub 6:00 p.m. “Freedom is not to be wasted”
- October 14th Servant night at OSL...Fall Festival for the congregation (see article)
- October 21st 9th Graders and their families banquet night (8th graders help serve, 6-7th graders will work on a separate servant project).

•**October 28th A special night in the Celebrate Center. A Confirmation Class for the entire congregation!** (really, come for an hour of learning and conversation...see what words of faith come to the surface). With Bibles open and some help from our friend Martin Luther we will delve into St. Paul’s understanding of what it means to be a human being: We are both and one at the same time, **“Sinner and Saint.”** To combine BOTH our understanding of having failed to serve God and neighbors (sinner) along with the remarkable promise that God’s Holy Spirit uses broken people to do perfect good (saint) is to find our callings. For this special October 28th night, the entire pastoral staff has agreed to be a part of the night and reflect upon their understanding of brokenness and blessedness as they serve. What are the faith words that come out of deep “sinner/saint” conversations? We will gather in the Celebrate Center to start promptly at 6:00 p.m. and we will be done by 7:00 p.m.!



With you in New Beginnings!
Pastor Greg Johnson



Women's Bible Studies

Attention OSL Women - did you know we offer Bible study groups especially for you? Well, we do! Circle Bible studies meet once a month at a variety of times during the day and we are considering adding an evening Bible study for those who prefer evenings. For more information on either a day study or to express interest in an evening study, please contact the Church Office at 605-336-2942 or Pastor Nancy Rieke.

International Health Partner Missionary | November 1st

OSL is excited to host Paula Lofstrom from International Health Partners on Sunday, November 1st! She will be at OSL between services to share about the work and ministry they are doing to build children's hospitals in Tanzania. We hope you will join us to hear about the mission and impact of this organization.



A Weekend with Angela Denker

You are invited to join us for a weekend of community conversations with Angela Denker! OSL is excited to host ELCA Pastor and Author, Angela Denker, in partnership with Augustana University.

- We will have Worship on Saturday, October 3rd at 5pm as usual in the Sanctuary.
- Following Worship, at 6:30pm, there will be a lecture and conversation with Angela Denker in the Gathering Place.
- There will be **one Worship Service on Sunday, October 4th at 8:45am** in the Sanctuary. This will be a blend of our Festive and Celebrate worship styles, with Pastor Michael preaching.
- At 10:15am, we will have a roundtable discussion and Q & A with Angela Denker in the Celebrate Center.
- There will be no 11am Festive Worship on October 4th.

Saturday, Oct. 3 | 6:30 p.m.

OSL: Gathering Place

- Lecture and Conversation

Sunday, Oct. 4 | 8:45 a.m.

OSL: Sanctuary

- One blended Worship Service
- Pastor Michael Preaching
- No 11 a.m. Service

Sunday, Oct. 4 | 10:15 a.m.

OSL: Celebrate Center

- Conversation with Angela Denker
- Q&A to follow

Sunday, Oct. 4 | 6:30 p.m.

Augustana Chapel Gathering Place

- Lecture and Conversation

Monday, Oct. 5 | 10:00 a.m.

Augustana Chapel of Reconciliation

- Worship with Angela Denker

Honoring OSL Librarians

The OSL Community Library is beyond magnificent because of the support from the church and all of the amazingly brilliant, creative, and dedicated librarians who have graced this magical space throughout the years! It is with tremendous honor and pride Kristie follows in their footsteps..

Dorothy Larson 1962-1966 (1)

Belle Olson 1966-1972 (2)

Martha Limburg 1972-1978 (3)

Gloria Landborg 1978-1997 (4)

Vicky Killian 1997-2000 (5)

Suzanne Anderson 2000-2009 (6)

Betsy Danielson 2009-2014 (7)

Deb Merxbauer 2014-2021 (8)

Jana Keller & Chad Mickelson 2021-2024 (9)

Kristie Schreck 2024-Present (10)



September Book Talk

The Book Talk with Pastor Michael & Kristie in September was filled with amazing participants, great conversations and many ideas! Angela Denker, the author of our book, Disciples of White Jesus will be visiting OSL to speak in person on Sunday, October 4th! Keep a look out for Pastor Michael & Kristie's next Book Talk!



ABC with Kristie



ABC with Kristie is bringing the Christmas spirit to the OSL Community Library on December 1st with author Emersyn Park and her new release *Boycotting Christmas*! The first 10 people to sign up will receive a free copy of the book! Other books will be on sale for just \$15 each! Emersyn will autograph her books following our discussion.

Connect with the Library

Kristie Schreck, Library Coordinator

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

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

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



Outside Our Walls: Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center

This month the focus of Outside Our Walls will be the Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center, located on the Pine Ridge Reservation in southwestern SD.

Started as a mission outreach, the work of the Lutheran Lakota Ministry began in 1985 with a continuous presence since 1989. Pastor Dan will be with us in the Friendship Room on Sunday October 18 between services to talk about the wide range of programs offered there which are providing help and hope for the Lakota community. All through the month of October, we will be collecting new and gently used winter clothing, especially coats and blankets. In addition, monetary donations are welcome and we are excited to announce that all funds gathered from the October 9 and 10 Augustana Hockey Parking Fundraisers will go towards this ministry as well. With winter just around the corner, we are thankful to help our brothers and sisters. Please make plans to welcome Pastor Dan and to learn more about this important ministry of the ELCA!



Beyond The Surface Bible Study

You are invited to join Pastor Michael's Bible Study: Beyond The Surface! Throughout this year, each three-week conversation will explore one question that helps us move beyond the surface and discover a richer, deeper faith. Each conversation stands on its own, so whether you attend one study or all six, you'll find a welcoming place to learn, ask questions, and grow in faith. Together we'll discover that Scripture is not simply a collection of ancient stories. It is an invitation to see the world, our relationships, and even ourselves through God's eyes.

As we look more deeply, we'll uncover surprising connections, fresh perspectives, and deeper insights that bring familiar passages to life in new ways. You are invited to join us as we move beyond the surface and encounter the heart of God in fresh and meaningful ways on **Tuesdays at 7pm and Thursdays at 11am**. In our first three-week session, we discussed "The Heart of God." Our next three-week session, "Who is my Neighbor?" begins October 13th and 15th. Sign up not required, you are welcome to come when it works for you!



Hockey Parking at OSL

You are invited to volunteer with OSL at our Augustana Hockey Parking Fundraisers for the 2026-2027 season! This is a great way for all ages to serve together and help raise funds for OSL programs and partner organizations. Check out the list of dates and organizations below and sign up to serve at OSL!



Hockey Parking Fundraiser Schedule

Date:	Time:	Organization:
Friday, October 9	5:30pm-7:30pm	Pine Ridge
Saturday, October 10	4:30pm-6:30pm	Pine Ridge
Thursday, October 15	5:30pm-7:30pm	Sunday School
Friday, October 30	5:30pm-7:30pm	Food To You
Saturday, October 31	4:30pm-6:30pm	Food To You
Friday, November 13	5:30pm-7:30pm	Sioux Falls Cares
Saturday, November 14	4:30pm-6:30pm	Creation Care
Friday, December 4	5:30pm-7:30pm	VBS
Saturday, December 5	4:30pm-6:30pm	VBS
Friday, December 18	5:30pm-7:30pm	Lutheran World Relief
Saturday, December 19	4:30pm-6:30pm	Lutheran World Relief
Friday, January 8	5:30pm-7:30pm	National Youth Gathering
Saturday, January 9	4:30pm-6:30pm	National Youth Gathering
Friday, January 22	5:30pm-7:30pm	Confirmation
Saturday, January 23	4:30pm-6:30pm	Confirmation
Friday, February 12	5:30pm-7:30pm	St Dysmas
Saturday, February 13	4:30pm-6:30pm	Necessities For Neighbors
Friday, February 26	5:30pm-7:30pm	Midwest Street Medicine
Saturday, February 27	4:30pm-6:30pm	Feeding South Dakota



Imagine More: ELCA Youth Gathering 2027

Imagine More: ELCA Youth Gathering 2027: Minneapolis | June 28–July 2, 2027

Every three years, thousands of high school youth and adult leaders from across the country come together for the ELCA Youth Gathering and in summer 2027, it is happening right in our backyard in Minneapolis! The theme for the 2027 Gathering is “Imagine More,” inspired by Ephesians 3:20. Throughout the week, youth will be invited to imagine more love, more welcome, more grace, more joy, and more courage as they worship, learn, serve, and experience what it means to be part of the wider church. The Gathering is five days filled with worship, speakers and musicians, interactive experiences, service, time to explore Minneapolis, and opportunities to meet Lutheran youth from across the country. New for 2027 is ENGAGE, where youth will rotate through immersive experiences designed around faith, vocation, purpose, community, and fun.

This year, Our Savior’s will be partnering with Spirit of Joy for the trip! We’ll bring our youth together throughout the year as we prepare for Minneapolis—and it also means we’ll have the fearless dream team of Madeline and Bella (Spirit of Joy’s High School Coordinator & seminary student) leading our high schoolers to the Gathering!

HARD DEADLINE: OCTOBER 19 AT 4:00 PM

Youth who are currently in 8th–12th grade are eligible to attend. If your youth wants to attend the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering, they **MUST** be signed up with OSL by Monday, October 19 at 4:00 PM. This is a firm deadline. ELCA Priority Registration opens October 21, and we want our group finalized and ready to register right away. Registering during the priority period gives our group priority consideration for hotel assignments.

What Will It Cost?

Estimated Trip Cost: Approximately \$1,350 per youth, which includes registration, lodging, and meals. We know the upfront number looks big! But our goal is for families **NOT** to pay that full amount. Through fundraising opportunities throughout the year, we are hoping to bring each youth’s out-of-pocket cost down to approximately \$450.

Because fundraising will play such an important role in making the Gathering affordable, youth attending the trip will be expected to participate in fundraising and volunteer opportunities throughout the year. The final cost is still being determined, and the \$700 family contribution is our goal rather than a guaranteed final amount, but we are committed to working together to make this experience as accessible as possible for our youth and families.

Want to learn more?

Families are encouraged to explore the official 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering website for more information about the theme, Gathering experience, schedule, FAQs, videos, and other resources. Visit the Official 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering Website: www.elca.org/gathering

And most importantly:

SIGN UP WITH OSL BY MONDAY, OCTOBER 19 AT 4:00 PM!

We can’t wait to Imagine More together in Minneapolis!



Donations for Feeding South Dakota

Rejoice Circle would like to issue a challenge to all OSL groups and members: gather 500 non-perishable food items for feeding South Dakota in the month of October. If we can do it, Thrivent will add \$500 also. It's a win-win!

Bring items to the back counter in the Gathering Place at OSL for collection.



Drop off nonperishable food items at OSL during the month of October!

Sponsored by Rejoice Circle

If we collect 500 items, Thrivent will donate an additional \$500 to Feeding South Dakota!

thrivent
Give thanks and give back

River Clean Up | October 11th

Let's put our creation stewardship into action! On Sunday, October 11, we will join with the Friends of the Big Sioux River to do a cleanup of the river banks at Spencer Park.

We will meet up at the park at 1:30 PM.

Be sure to wear closed-toe shoes and long sleeves and pants are encouraged.

Supplies will be provided at check in.

All are welcome! Sign up at the Welcome Desk or this QR Code!



Teen Lead Foundation | October 11th

Teen Lead Foundation will have a display table on Sunday morning, October 11 in the Gathering Place. Teen Lead has been working with Friends of the Big Sioux River and other community groups to provide environmental stewardship learning opportunities for children. Dr. Augustina Kwesie Osabutey, founder of Teen Lead, has authored several children's books on conservation topics. Some of their initiatives include STEAM education, mentorship, and leadership training. Stop by between services to learn more!



OSL Outdoor Clean Up

Join us for a day of cleaning up the outdoor spaces at OSL before the cold weather sets in! Come to OSL on Tuesday, October 27th, from 8:30am-12pm. Pizza will be served afterwards. No sign up required, just come join the fun and serve our Church together in a practical way!

Kids Club: Growing Faith During the Week

Written by Madeline Trosvig

We are only a few weeks into our first session of OSL Kids Club, and it has already been better than I could have imagined!

Each Wednesday afternoon, Our Savior's is filled with kids learning, creating, singing, playing, and building relationships. Through Bible stories, art, music, games, and time together, we are creating a space where kids can learn about God's love in a way that is fun, lively, and made just for them. One of my favorite parts of Kids Club has been watching the relationships forming between generations. Our volunteers range from college students to retired members of Our Savior's, and it has been such a joy to watch adults and kids get to know one another. Whether they're reading together in the library, working on an art project, sharing a snack, or simply talking about their week, these connections have become just as important as the activities themselves. Kids Club has been a gift not only to our kids, but to the adults who show up each week, too.



I am especially grateful that we can offer Christian education during the week. We know how full family schedules can be, and weekends are often packed with sports, music, travel, and other activities. Kids Club gives families another opportunity for their children to grow in faith and find a place of belonging at church, right in the middle of the week!

And the best part? It's not too late to join us! Kids can register for Kids Club at any time, and the program is completely FREE. Head to the sign up tab on our website to sign up. Our fall session continues on Wednesdays through November 18, and Kids Club will return for a winter session beginning January 13, 2027.

It has been exciting to see what is already growing through Kids Club, and I am so grateful for every child, family, volunteer, and college student who has helped bring it to life. My hope is that Kids Club continues to be a place where kids know they are loved, adults discover new ways to share their gifts, and relationships across generations continue to grow. I can't wait to see where the rest of this year takes us!

SAIL Classes

In August we wrapped up yet another 12 week session of SAIL (Stay Active and Independent for Life) exercise class here at OSL. SAIL is an evidence-based exercise class designed for adults 65 and older to prevent falls, improve strength, and maintain independence. Participants not only gain strength, balance and coordination but also friendship and fun in an organized social setting.

We are so grateful to have such dedicated, focused and lively volunteers and participants at the church Monday and Thursday mornings. Our leaders also reported that there were several people with perfect or near perfect attendance, and during a busy and hot summer that is a special and celebratory feat. SAIL leader Madeleine Jahr says that participants have told her they “like to get their day started with coming together to feel good about themselves” and that it helps in their daily lives “... to exercise rather than staying home, drinking coffee and watching TV.” If you or someone you know is interested in SAIL, please scan the QR Code for a complete list of current class locations.



Friendship Club | November 3rd

You're invited to join us for Friendship Club on November 3rd at for a presentation by OSL member, Dr. Greg Schultz, who will be speaking about his medical mission work in Central America. The presentation will be in the Friendship Room at 11:00 AM, followed by lunch in The Gathering Place at 12:00 PM.

Egypt 2027

Interested in joining OSL on our trip to Egypt in the fall of 2027? Scan this QR Code to fill out an interest form to get more information!



Augustana Library Associates Fall Author Event

You are invited to Augustana Library Associate's FREE Fall Author event at OSL! Join Author Amy Frykholm at OSL on Tuesday, Oct. 6, at 7:30pm, with a book signing afterwards. Frykholm is an award-winning author of several non-fiction books exploring religion, relationships and culture, along with her debut novel, *High Hawk* (2024). Register at this QR Code to attend in person or to watch the livestream. Seating is general admission. The event is free. Donations support Augustana Library Associates programming.

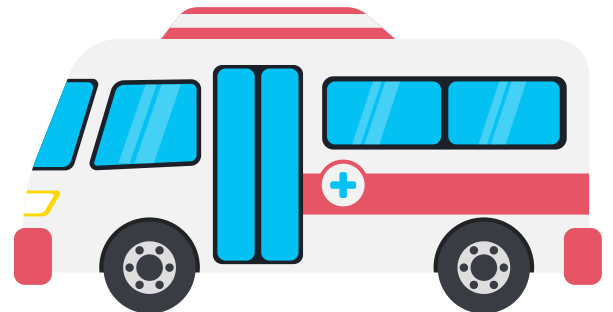


Carroll Institute Presentation | November 15th

OSL member Kristi VanDeRostyne has graciously offered her time, expertise, and experience to present education for adult forum time on Sunday, November 15th. Kristi, Prevention Services and Program Manager at the Carroll Institute, will be providing education on topics such as substance use disorders, signs of substance abuse, and how to get help. We are looking forward to learning more about this important and prevalent topic.

Blood Mobile at OSL | November 8th

Mark your calendars! The Blood Mobile will be returning to OSL on Sunday, November 8th from 8am-12pm! Your donation can make a lifesaving difference for patients and families right here in the Sioux Falls community. Please consider giving blood and helping save a life. Keep an eye out for how you can schedule your donation time.



OSL Woodshop Ministry

Thank you to our Woodshop Ministry for making this beautiful podium for Augustana University's Chapel rededication!

From its beginning, the OSL Woodshop Ministry has been a 'hands-on' adventure in Christian, Community Building.

This unique ministry opportunity enables individuals to offer their creative skills to further enhance ministry opportunities within our congregation and beyond. Some of those projects include constructing Baptismal Faith Chests, leading a Confirmation Mentor Class, and working on facility service projects. They have also assisted with several woodworking projects in the community, including this beautiful podium! The OSL Woodshop Ministry meets on Wednesdays from 6pm-8pm and Saturdays from 8am-12pm. Contact Pastor Tim Lemme for more information at 605-336-2942 or tlemme@oslchurch.com



Chorus-pondence from Worship

Written by Gene LeVasseur; Director of Worship

When was the last time you did something for the first time? Many of us have attended church regularly for many years and not tried anything new for a long time. It's our prayer that ALL of us, young and old, will consider ourselves CALLED to serve and try something new this fall.

Here are a few bible verses using the word "NEW":

- Ephesians 4 - "Be reNEWed in the spirit of your minds, and clothe yourselves with the NEW self."
- Ezekiel 18 - "Get yourselves a NEW heart and a NEW spirit."
- Psalm 40 - "He put a NEW song in my mouth."
- Hebrews 10 - "We have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the NEW and living way that He opened for us."

As I reflect on the new adventures in my life I realize that all of my good choices were made when I prayed about them. When I have prayed, read the bible, and thought about God's commands and teaching I find inspiration, faith, and courage to try new things. As we start our new series, "The Light Between Us" I pray you will find something new in your life that brings you and our Lord joy. Again, when was the last time that you did something for the first time? Just in the area of worship at Our Savior's there are many opportunities for you to try something new. Consider contacting me to try one of these ministry areas:

MUSICIAN, COMMUNION, USHER, SOUND, MEDIA, READER, GREETER, TV STUDIO

"SING" cerely, Gene LeVasseur

Some of our Musicians at our fall pot luck :)



Lutheran Seminary Resources

Did you know that our Lutheran seminaries offer many low and no-cost online educational opportunities for lay people? From daily devotions following the coming Sunday lectionary <https://www.luthersem.edu/godpause/> to more in-depth Bible studies at <https://enterthebible.org> There is something for everyone! Follow the links or log into Luther Seminary to access more information.

Daily devotions:



Bible Studies:



Susan B. Anthony

Susan B. Anthony is a Sioux Falls elementary school located at 2000 S. Dakota Avenue. At the present time, they have approximately 475 students and 80 staff members. The Eagle is the school's mascot. As such, the Eagles practice and demonstrate their core values of Safety, Ownership, Acceptance, and Respect (S.O.A.R) as they learn and work together. OSL has the privilege to partner with SBA to offer additional support for teachers, staff, and students.

It is our goal to help the teachers and students SOAR by providing volunteers for events, supplies for teachers and classrooms, as well as meals and snacks for the teachers so they stay nourished and energized! Currently, OSL members can “pick an apple” from the apple trees located by the OSL Community Library as well as in the Gathering Place, and purchase indicated items for teachers. (Items vary in price from \$5.99 to \$99.99, so there is something in all price ranges.)

Once a month, SBA provides a “Woot Wagon” with fun snacks for the teachers. OSL often supplies snacks for the wagon. Additionally, we provide meals for parent/teacher conferences and treats for staff meetings. Volunteers are occasionally needed to help at events such as BINGO night or Soaring Eagle Parties. If you would be interested in providing food for any of these opportunities or volunteering to help at events, please sign up at the Welcome Desk, or contact Trish Syverson. We have been blessed to be able to use a part of the Noisy Offering to help pay for a portion of the snacks and meals, but additional donations are always appreciated. If you are a Thrivent Policy holder, you are eligible for two financial grants per year, and your donation of a Thrivent grant allows us to help provide clothing items or supplies requested occasionally for students. Do you like to help plan things? We'd love to have you on the committee! You can sign up for that as well!

Lastly, it says in Isaiah 40:31, “But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” The most important part of our partnership with SBA is to continually pray that the students and staff will soar like eagles and that God will bless them with the strength needed to endure both the intense trials as well as the everyday struggles.

Finance Updates

This summarized statement reflects our budget vs. actual numbers through July and August. We are 1/3 the way through our shortened, 6-month Fiscal Year, that ends on 12.31.26.

Our Current Fund offerings are slightly under budget through the first two months, but that is typical for the summer season.

Our overall expenses are under budget leading into the fall, but we have had a few more maintenance expenses as we continue to catch up on projects and some deferred maintenance.

God bless you all and thank you for making OSL the wonderful place that it is. Faith, hope, and love are truly found and felt in abundance here because of you all.

“And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.”

God Bless,
Rudy Kreyer
OSL Director of
Operations

	Ministry Plan 7.1.26 - 12.31.26	Actual YTD July and August
Revenues		
Contributions - General Fund	\$ 835,000	\$ 250,362
Noisy Offering	\$ 2,500	\$ 735
Memorials	\$ 5,000	\$ 12,094
OSL Foundation	\$ -	\$ 5,500
Ministry Income		
Designated Gifts	\$ 20,000	\$ 22,815
Spiritual Care	\$ 4,000	\$ 1,749
Parish Nursing Annual Grant	\$ 5,000	\$ -
Lifelong Learning	\$ 6,500	\$ 11,099
Discipleship	\$ 6,000	\$ 1,490
Worship	\$ 9,500	\$ 501
Facility Income		
Augustana CLC	\$ 6,900	\$ 2,300
Facility (Other)	\$ 32,345	\$ 3,784
Building Maintenance Fund	\$ -	\$ 3,390
Interest Income	\$ 6,000	\$ 15
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 938,745	\$ 315,835
Expenses		
Ministry Teams		
Worship	\$ 34,750	\$ 10,226
Lifelong Learning	\$ 27,800	\$ 5,676
Discipleship	\$ 17,550	\$ 6,436
Spiritual Care	\$ 8,175	\$ 920
Love in Action		
Benevolence	\$ 93,750	\$ 25,235
General Operations		
Personnel	\$ 567,349	\$ 170,862
Facility	\$ 150,838	\$ 64,329
General Administration	\$ 58,120	\$ 14,155
Professional Expenses	\$ 6,700	\$ 597
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 965,032	\$ 298,436
TOTAL Operating Gain/Loss	\$ (26,287)	\$ 17,399

Stephen Ministry: Storms

Written by Ben Weins

One of my more memorable experiences this summer happened over Labor Day weekend when an intense Midwestern thunderstorm joined our family reunion.

We were getting ready for breakfast under a picnic shelter along the Missouri River when the clouds began to darken and the thunder grew louder and closer. Being the hearty Midwesterners that we are, we kept going with our breakfast preparations, hoping the storm might pass. For a while, we could still see the town of Chamberlain across the river through the wind and rain. But as the storm intensified, the rain became so heavy that the town disappeared from view. Eventually, we all got soaking wet, even while huddling under the shelter, and had to reluctantly give in and move everyone indoors. We could still have breakfast together—it just wasn't going to happen outside as we had planned.

As I reflected on our attempt to wait out the storm, I was struck by how much the experience resembles the storms we encounter in life.

First, the storm wasn't part of our plan. We had envisioned a certain kind of morning, and it was difficult to change those plans even when the storm was clearly upon us. Life can be much the same. Difficult circumstances often arrive without warning and force us to adjust the plans we thought were settled.

Second, when the storm became most intense, we couldn't even see across the river. We knew Chamberlain was still there, even though we couldn't see it. It didn't disappear, but for a moment it felt like it did. There are times in our lives when grief, anxiety, loss, uncertainty, or other difficulties can feel the same way. During particularly intense seasons, it can become difficult to see beyond what is immediately in front of us. Yet what is true hasn't necessarily changed simply because we cannot see it clearly. Sometimes we need someone to sit with us in the storm and remind us of what we already know is there.

Finally, the storm changed our plans, but it didn't ruin the day. We still had breakfast. We still spent time together. We still laughed and enjoyed being with one another. The storm became part of our story rather than the end of the story.

Perhaps that is one of the gifts of walking alongside someone during a difficult season. We don't always have the ability to stop the storm or make it go away. But we can sit with someone through the wind and the rain. We can listen, offer companionship, and help them remember that there is more to their story than just the storm they are experiencing right now. And, like a Midwestern thunderstorm, many of life's storms—while intense—do not last forever. Eventually, the clouds begin to lift, the rain and wind slows down, and what was hidden from view becomes visible again.

If you or someone you know is experiencing one of life's storms, please consider contacting one of the pastors and arrange for a Stephen Minister. I know from my experience, it was very helpful to have other people with me under that picnic shelter. We huddled and talked together, waited until it passed, and then eventually were able to adjust, move on, and still enjoy some breakfast.



INTERCOM (USPS311210)

Published monthly by:

Our Savior's Lutheran Church Congregation

909 West 33rd Street, Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Periodicals Postage Paid at Sioux Falls, South Dakota

POSTMASTER:

Please send address change to INTERCOM,

909 West 33rd Street, Sioux Falls, SD 57105



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We offer two distinct worship styles:

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and on Sundays at 11a.m.

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