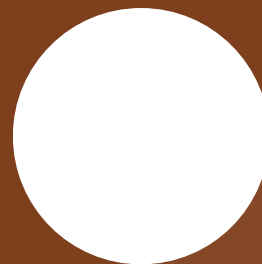
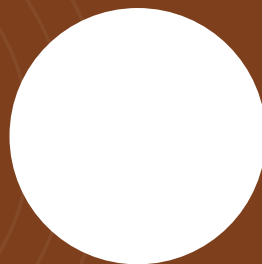


Our Savior's **QUARTERLY**

FALL 2022



GET CONNECTED

Uplifting messages
Getting to know our ministries
Ways to get involved

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staff directory

Rev. Sarah J. Stumme, Senior Pastor
Rev. John Berg, Interim Pastor

Bethany Kurschner, Director of Youth Ministries
Lori Nahirniak, Director of Children's Ministries

Taras Nahirniak, Music Director
Mandy Martel, Mountain Movers Director

Karisa Perik, Director of Communications

Jennifer Ames, Director of Parish Operations
Rick Riley, Bookkeeper
Sofia Pipp, Administrative Assistant

Frank Westbrook, Facility Director
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get involved

Subscribe to our weekly newsletter
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oslc-wi.org



[oslcoconomowoc](https://www.facebook.com/oslcoconomowoc)



Our Savior's Lutheran
Church Oconomowoc



Get connected with Our Savior's small groups, ministries, and ways to serve by reading our Connect booklet! Pick yours up at the welcome desk or scan this QR code for a digital copy.

WORSHIP WITH US

Sundays

8 AM Traditional

9:15 AM Kids

10:30 AM Praise

Wednesdays

6:30 PM Youth

Saturdays

5 PM Traditional

Small Group Highlight: Christians Sharing

MEETS THURSDAYS AT 6:30 PM AT OUR SAVIOR'S

Christians Sharing is a safe, private, and nonjudgmental place to share the highs and lows in your life. It started over forty years ago, and members of this group continue the mission to share God's love and grace through Christian fellowship and human compassion. We have walked alongside members facing a multitude of life challenges such as health issues, grieving, and life transitions. We provide an atmosphere of honesty, openness, acceptance, and encouragement along with the opportunity to explore one's concept of a higher power. You can come just to listen or to talk - there is no pressure to speak or attendance requirements. We will cry with you, laugh with you, and give thanks to God for the blessings and challenges in our lives.

TO LEARN MORE, CONTACT AL WILSON AT (262) 490-5007 OR JULIE LANGFELDT AT (262) 567-1350.

message from

PASTOR SARAH



Dear people of Our Savior's,

Just about eight months ago, I joined you to begin serving as Senior Pastor. Thank you for the warm welcome. I am meeting new people daily, and I look forward to meeting you and sharing in your stories.

The past months have been a season of "returning." We are returning to practices and habits put aside during the height of the pandemic. And yet: the truth is that life has always been a rhythm of separation and togetherness, exile and return. We may prefer the "return" bit, the "bring you back to this place" bit, but that doesn't mean separation isn't part of the story.

Experiences of separation are as old as the ancient stories of the Garden of Eden, the Israelites' exile in Babylon, and the parable of the Prodigal Son. Jesus and his followers were separated by betrayal and death, and then reunited by forgiveness and newness of life. Even on our most "normal" days, our lives are a rhythm of gathering and dispersing, hellos and good-byes.

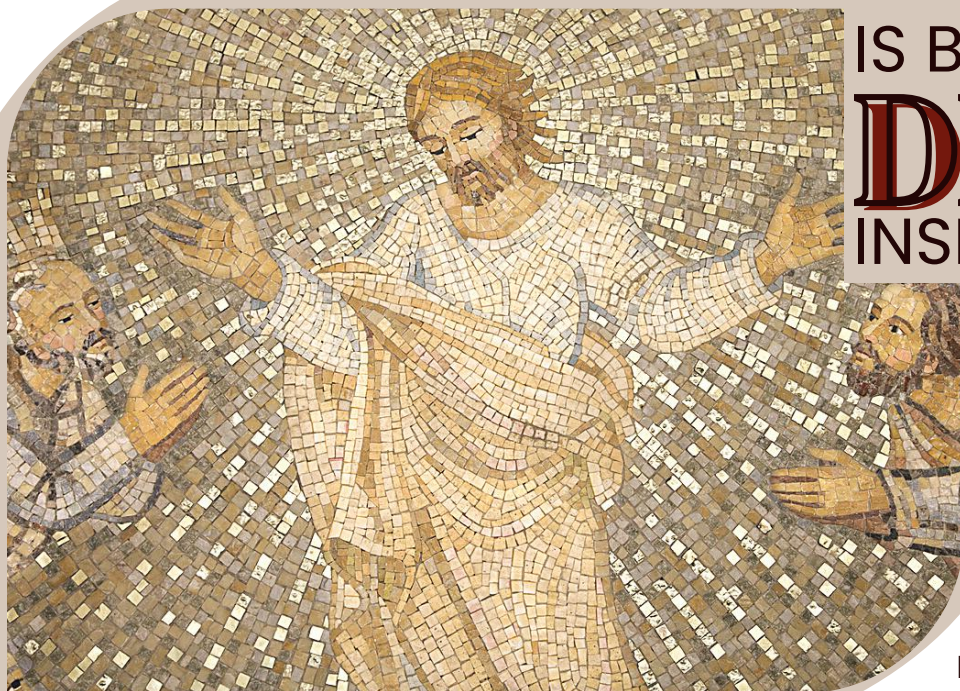
This past year has been another profound experience of this ancient pattern, and as challenging as it has been, we can take solace in the knowledge that our ancestors, too, experienced seasons of exile. And here is the point: thanks to this history, over time our faith — and our church — has been built to help us live through such seasons with grace and hope.

At our core, Our Savior's is a community of reunion, homecoming, and return. Now more than ever, our congregation stands as a beacon of hope, welcome, and hospitality. Now more than ever, we are called to come together to be the body of Christ, reaching out and meeting people where they are at so that no one journeys alone.

This newsletter is full of invitations from ministry groups to come together as the heart and hands of Jesus. It also tells a story: the story of how, in this congregation, we tangibly experienced God's ancient promise to "give us a future with hope."

I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For surely, I know the plans I have for you, says God, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

JEREMIAH 29:10-11



IS BEING CALLED A **DISCIPLE** INSPIRING OR SCARY?

The answer is, on both counts, a resounding YES! For some people, the idea of being counted as a disciple is downright terrifying. Can we really find our names intermixed with the likes of Peter, James, and John – with Matthew, Andrew, and Philip? Those first disciples that Jesus invited to follow are way out of our league, aren't

they? Well, not so fast! Upon further review, those disciples were as human and flawed as we are. The truth of the matter is, if Jesus invited them to follow, why not you and me? If Jesus could mold and shape and teach them in the ways and grace of God, why not us? Pretty quickly our thinking moves from scary to inspiring – Jesus was able to take that first ragtag group and change the world.

Being a Disciple of Jesus

What if we began to think of ourselves as disciples of Jesus rather than simply as members of Our Savior's? As disciples, our primary relationship is with Jesus – and Our Savior's is the community of people with whom this relationship with Jesus is lived out and nurtured.

It may be a subtle shift, but it is one that invites us to move deeper and grow in the practices that mark us as disciples of Jesus: worship, prayer, study, service, generous giving, and sharing our experience. These practices not only help us grow in our relationship with Jesus, they strengthen our relationships with each other and open us up to new opportunities and ways of living as God's people.

Inspiring? Absolutely. Scary? That too. These are both embedded in the experience of placing our trust and our hope in God, who invites us to join in the work of caring for all of creation.

*“God is love,
and those who
abide in love
abide in God.”*

-1 John 4:8

Coming to Worship in October
The Fall Stewardship Emphasis

**LOVE
DOES**

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

Consecration
Sunday
October 30



OUR FAITH CAN MOVE MOUNTAINS

OSLC YOUTH ST. LOUIS TRIP

This summer, June 23-27, our OSLC youth group took a service trip to St. Louis. Three adult leaders accompanied 11 students, from those entering 9th grade to those who just graduated high school.

The project they took on was in partnership with the Gateway Housing Service Project (GHSP), a ministry that makes homes accessible in the St. Louis metropolitan area.

“[The GHSP team] showed kids how to use the power tools; they showed kids how to build,” youth leader Molly Neumann said. “I saw their heart for service.”

Under the leadership of the GHSP team, the high schoolers built an accessibility ramp for a woman named Barb, who has gone between being hospitalized and being homebound for quite some time. She lives with her daughter Stella and will now be able to get in and out of the house much easier thanks to the hard work of our youth.

However, they did not stop there. Once the ramp was built, the group took up the task of cleaning up Stella and Barb’s yard, which was covered in layers of “gumballs”: spike-covered seeds from a sweetgum tree that get matted into the ground and can pose a tripping hazard.

“There were like 500 layers of them, so I think we spent four hours raking them, just trying to get all of these gumballs up,” high school graduate Grace Krueger said. “It was fun. It was hot, but it went pretty quick.”

By the end of it, they had filled a trailer with yard bags, Neumann said. But they still wanted to do more. So, they bought some mulch and flowers to make a garden bed.

“They were just trying to think of anything that they could do to help brighten these people’s day,” Neumann said.

No matter how hot, tired, and sick of each other they got, the high schoolers always rallied, Neumann said. They found joy and opportunity even in the hard work of a service project.

The group also got the chance to have fun and explore the city. They took a riverboat ride and explored the Gateway Arch museum, the City Museum, and the St. Louis Zoo. They went to a Cardinal’s game that even the non-sports fans among them were able to enjoy - despite the fact that the team lost! They helped prepare their meals, played card games, and ate pizza so good that they hope to replicate it at a pizza party after the trip.

The OSLC youth group unites high schoolers from all different schools and backgrounds to support each other and have fun together. The group is always open for any student to join in, find community, and feel safe.

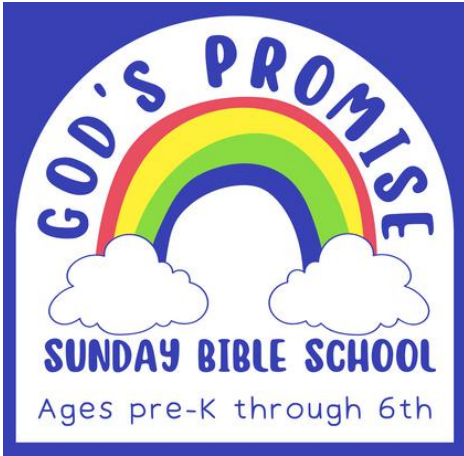
For more information on how to get involved, contact Bethany Kurschner at bethany.kurschner@oslc-wi.org or come to Wednesday night youth group from 6:30-8 PM starting September 14th!



YOUTH & FAMILY PROGRAMS

Join us in forming faith and having fun!

SUNDAYS



We are excited to explore the Bible and grow in faith with you! Kids in grades pre-K through 6th are invited to join us from 9-10:15 AM for worship, Kids' Music, and lessons straight from the Bible with VBS-style rotations in art, science, drama, games, and cooking. Register online at oslc-wi.org!



Mountain Movers is a new choir for pre-K through 6th graders to celebrate music and movement. Mountain Movers practice and perform singing and moving while growing in faith and having fun! Join Mandy Martel on Sundays from 8:50 - 9:15 AM for this exciting musical experience!



All 7th-12th graders are invited to join us in the Youth Lounge from 9-10:15 AM. We will be talking about anything that is on their minds, answering those looming faith questions, and getting to know each other better. No registration needed!

WEDNESDAYS

6:30 - 8 PM



CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is a ministry with **7th-8th grade** students and their families. After completing their second year of Confirmation, students are invited to publicly affirm their faith and the promises made to them in their baptism. Register online at oslc-wi.org!

YOUTH GROUPS

We have two youth groups: **5th-6th grade** and **high school**. Students are invited to join us for worship, fellowship, and fun! No registration needed. Contact Bethany Kurschner with any questions at bethany.kurschner@oslc-wi.org.



There are things that every teen should know, and Life University is a way for us to help teach some of those life skills. We offer free classes on How to Manage Your Money, College Questions, Basic Car Maintenance, and more. These classes will be on intermittent Wednesdays during the high school youth group time. Updates can be found on [Facebook](#) and in the weekly newsletter.

PARTNERSHIP

WHO ARE OUR PARTNERS?

Reformation Lutheran Church



Our Savior's partners with Reformation Lutheran Church, located in the Milwaukee area, by connecting in faith and in support. We come together for Reformation's Good Friday Neighborhood Prayer Walk, annual fishing outings in Milwaukee and on Fowler Lake, and in open invitation to their Sunday worship services and community Bible studies. We provide backpacks and school supplies to graduates of their SALT (Serving and Learning Together) and ICE (Inspiring Children Everyday) summer programs for youth. **This summer, we sent 50 backpacks full of school supplies to Reformation.** We also help them with their Christmas gift giving program.

Promise for Haiti



Our Savior's supports the Health Partners program within Partners for Haiti. **Through our sponsorship, some of the poorest families of Pignon, Haiti are able to obtain healthcare** at the hospital in Pignon as well as preventive care. OSLC has been sponsoring 10 families since early 2020. We hold fundraisers throughout the year, including a fall kringle sale and a winter wine tasting at Wine Maniacs. We hope to travel back to Pignon in 2023 to visit our sponsored families and strengthen our partnership. In addition, this fall we plan to further educate OSLC within the Sunday Bible School programs about each of our sponsored families and build upon our relationship with Promise for Haiti.

Family Promise



Family Promise provides shelter, food, and support services to homeless families across the country. Our affiliate, Family Promise of Waukesha County, is based in downtown Waukesha and serves those in our community with the support of Our Savior's and other local churches. We not only help homeless families, but also provide emergency help for families at risk of losing their homes. **This quarter, we have helped 61 individuals stay in their homes and 19 homeless individuals to get the support that they need.** We invite you to join us in this partnership to provide meals and funding to help those experiencing homelessness in our community.



MAKE A LIFE-SAVING DIFFERENCE. CONNECT WITH THESE MINISTRY PARTNERS AND MORE AT OSLC-WI.ORG/OUTREACH

MINISTRIES

Diocese of Meru | Kikatiti & Kitefu

The Diocese of Meru, located between Mt Kilimanjaro and the Serengeti in eastern Africa, belongs to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania and is in partnership with the Greater Milwaukee Synod. Within that partnership, Our Savior's engages in three global missions: a congregation partnership, an education partnership, and an economic partnership.

Congregation Partnership: Kikatiti and Kitefu are parishes within the Diocese of Meru. In 2007, Our Savior's began a partnership with them that committed us to pray for each other, get to know each other, and support each other. Our Savior's mission tithes generously supports these partnerships through joint projects for hunger, clean water, orphans, widows, those who are retired or disabled, women's ministry, health care, and social services. **We were able to raise over \$5,000 for hunger relief during their time of drought this summer.**

Education Partnership: In 2010, Our Savior's began supporting Kikatiti Secondary School through individual donations for student scholarships (YES), investment in teachers (LIFT), and facilities and supplies (TOOLS). **As a result of this support, the pass rate has steadily increased, former students are returning as teachers, and the school is widely recognized as one of the most improved secondary schools.**

Economic Partnership: The Greater Milwaukee Synod has a partnership with the Mt. Meru Coffee Project, which buys, processes, and sells premium coffee. This project provides small Tanzanian farmers market access and price support for sustainable income to reduce poverty. It also provides training to over 2,000 farmers to improve their crop quality and yield.

MT. MERU
COFFEE PROJECT

Need a gift idea for a friend - or yourself? Buy some Mt. Meru coffee! Available at Our Savior's or online at oslc-wi.org/mt-meru-coffee-project!



OSLC MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT

BRINGERS OF HOPE | CHRISTIAN CAREGIVING

Get support through compassionate listening, sharing words of encouragement, prayer, and guidance through life's challenges.

Bringers of Hope (BoH) has been a ministry at OSLC since 2009, when it was designed to be an extension of the OSLC Pastoral Care ministry. This dedicated team of caregivers provides compassionate listening as well as gently sharing guiding words of comfort, peace, and hope in times of uncertainty and distress. Each member of the BoH team is a Christ-centered, Holy Spirit-inspired, and passionate caregiver.

The BoH team understands that Christian caregiving is no small gesture. God uses this ordinary group of caregivers to do an extraordinary ministry. God stands faithfully in front of this group of dedicated caregivers encouraging us, inspiring us, and shaping us to have a positive impact.

If you are in need of care from the Bringers of Hope, please call (262) 443-6922.



MUSIC PROGRAMS



ADULT GROUPS

ALLELUIA CHOIR

Rehearsals Wednesdays at 7 PM to sing at the 8 AM service two to three times per month.

PRAISE BAND

Rehearsals Sundays at 11:30 AM to sing at the 10:30 AM service the following week.

RHONDO JUBILATE BELL CHOIR

Rehearsals Thursdays at 6:30 PM to perform at both Sunday services once a month.

KIDS & YOUTH

YOUTH BELL RINGERS

Kids in 4th-8th grades are invited to join our youth bell ringers starting up again this fall. Rehearsals on Wednesdays at 5:30 PM.

KIDS' MUSIC - MOUNTAIN MOVERS CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Kids grades pre-K through 6th can enjoy a time of musical learning and fun with the Mountain Movers Children's Choir at 8:50 AM on Sundays leading into Sunday Bible School. They also get the opportunity to participate in our annual Christmas pageant. Contact Mandy Martel at mandy.martel@oslc-wi.org or Lori Nahirniak at lori.nahirniak@oslc-wi.org to learn more.

To learn more and get connected to our music ministries, contact Music Director Taras Nahirniak at taras.nahirniak@oslc-wi.org. We would love to have you join us!

"Our Savior's Alleluia Choir creates great fellowship and receives wonderful support from the congregation. Every age is involved and welcomes anyone who loves to sing, **praising our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**"

- Marion Sorenson, Choir member

NOTE FROM TARAS

As the new church season approaches, I have been remembering my experience at the Orthodox Church I grew up in and what an integral part music was to the service. This is why I was drawn to Our Savior's Lutheran Church. The music program here is strong and well appreciated. In this upcoming year, we would like to take another step forward with the help of you, the congregation. In growing our musical groups, we would like to invite everyone to join in and participate.

We are looking to enhance our bell choir with more players to complete our six octaves of bells. It would be a joy to feature all of our bells during services! The Youth Bell Ringers will also begin in September. Any kids interested are welcome to join!

If you play an instrument, please reach out. We are always looking for solo or accompaniment help. The commitment does not need to be extensive, but it is wonderful for us to have options.

9 - Taras Nahirniak, Music Director

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Many of my messages over the past couple of years have looked back at what has happened or looked ahead to the future of Our Savior's.

The future is now!

As we think about our church today, the way we worship, our time together in fellowship, and as we serve others outside our walls, I want you to think about our mission: to share the love of Christ to transform lives. There are three key elements to our mission:

1. The love of Christ
2. Sharing that love
3. Transforming lives

Are those three elements in our lives today? Do those elements reveal themselves in our church life? I think that we all believe that Christ's love is in us, and that we experience that love in different ways throughout our lives.

Has Christ's love transformed us? That is a tougher question to answer, but if we take time to think about it, we can identify examples of how we have been touched and changed by Christ's love.

Now for the more challenging part. Have we shared Christ's love? I imagine that we can point to circumstances where that has happened, but is that a regular occurrence? Are we intentional about it?

Does it happen in all aspects of our lives, or only at church? Do we share Christ's love at church all the time? I think this is the first key element to being a vibrant community of faith: sharing Christ's love with one another and with those outside our church. Let's be intentional about it, reflecting on our days to understand where we have and have not shared Christ's love. Let's look for opportunities to share that love in ways that we may have ignored in the past. Let's celebrate, thanking God for when we experience Christ's love in our lives.

This fall, there will be a review of the visioning work that was done early last year. We will prioritize and confirm what we believe will be the most effective ways we can transform lives, but we can share Christ's love today and every day. The future is now.

Your Friend in Christ,
Mike Bruno

GET TO KNOW OUR COUNCIL



MIKE BRUNO
PRESIDENT



JENNIFER ANDERSON
WARWICK
VICE PRESIDENT



GENE COFFIELD
TREASURER



LISA SMITH



JEFF KLAISNER



JODY THOMPSON



MATT LOIS



MELISSA KRAHN



SANDRA ZENOR



OUR SAVIOR'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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WORSHIP WITH US!

Sundays

8 AM Traditional

9:15 AM Kids

10:30 AM Praise

Wednesdays

6:30 PM Youth

Saturdays

5 PM Traditional

