
OUR SAVIOR'S QUARTERLY



**WINTER
2022**

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We invite you to...



VISIT THE LIBRARY

Discover and explore the OSLC library between Holy Grounds and the Welcome Desk! You can find everything from audiobooks, movies, and magazines to devotionals, parenting guides, and picture books. You will also find materials on the displays just outside the library and on the children's table near the front entrance. Browsing and checkout is available anytime the building is open.

This quote from Christianity Today is a good description for a church library: "It's a ministry and not just a room with books in it."

Our Savior's is blessed to have the library ministry which was created by a longtime member, Berdine Mumper. A commemorative plaque will soon be placed there to honor her work and dedication to this ministry.

Interested in joining the library team? A Library Committee is now forming! Contact Karen Kjensrud at (262) 567-4092 or kjensrud@hotmail.com to get connected.

JOIN US FOR HOLIDAY FUN!

This holiday season is sure to be a blast! From Christmas concerts to cookie sales, there are plenty of great opportunities to engage in community at Our Savior's.

WINTER CONCERT WITH WESTWARD ROAD | NOV 30 @ 7 PM

Invite your friends to see the band Westward Road perform!

SCANDINAVIAN COOKIE SALE | DEC 4

Get some traditional Christmas cookies and support OSLC ministries.

BLUE CHRISTMAS | DEC 6 @ 6:30 PM

All those feeling "blue" this season, join us for a healing worship service.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT & COOKIES | DEC 11 @ 3 PM

This year, the annual Christmas concert will also feature a cookie walk!

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM | DEC 18 @ 10:30 AM

Come see our kids and youth perform in the annual Christmas Pageant.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve
3 PM | 5 PM | 10 PM

Christmas Day
9 AM

SAVE THE DATE: FEB 15, 2023

Join us for the annual Smorgasbord! Enjoy a feast of Norwegian food and gather together in community. Everyone is invited - buy your tickets at the church office soon!



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Our Savior's Lutheran
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FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION...



MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SARAH



About ten years ago, I came into my role as the family historian. I inherited the work of two relatives who had begun documenting my family from immigration to current generations. One of my great grandmothers had 294 recorded grandchildren and great grandchildren, so tracking that family was a sizable undertaking. Of course, it is fun to try to connect to the famous or infamous and search for a royal bloodline.

What draws me to genealogy are the stories. I appreciate learning about families and how they navigate the challenges of life, what they are up against in the times and places in which they are born. I have learned that my

family has not been immune from what might be considered a 'scandal' or two. Like your families, they triumphed, they suffered, they failed, they succeeded. They passed on skills and identity to the next generation.

I also look to my ancestors for inspiration and wisdom. What words of encouragement might they grant this generation as we navigate our time? What mistakes do we not want to repeat? What skills or traits might provide strength? What commitments of theirs will we continue to uphold?

Ancestry is not related to bloodlines alone. We also have a spiritual family tree. Faith practices, attitudes, and beliefs have been passed down through our families. Our spiritual family tree is also built by mentors, teachers, ministers, books, and small groups that have influenced our faith. Our Savior's has a spiritual ancestry. From its founding by immigrants in 1868 through the decades since, we have a spiritual legacy of faith shared from generation to generation. With that legacy, we can reach back for inspiration and wisdom, grace and humility. It is also a call to action, asking, "how will we bless the next generations to come? What will we pass on?"

The root word of "generation" is "gen," meaning "origin" or "birth." What have your ancestors and those who have come before you passed on for you to continue? Who are the spiritual elders in our community who planted the seeds for the things that are now blooming? What seeds are you planting for the future?

From Generation to Generation... reminds us of the ways our lives, histories, actions, and stories are interconnected and woven together. The work of God is always unfolding—in and through us. In the same manner that God spoke to Mary, Joseph, the Wisemen, and the Shepherds, through the generations God speaks to us.

This Advent, may you remember that **you belong**—to a story etched in time, to generations that have come before and will come after, and to a love that will not let you go.

Mary's song of praise

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

Luke 1:48-50

preschoolers

Q: What do you like about Sunday Bible School?

I like my teacher.
I like to paint.
- Henry

The people are nice.
- Asher

I like to play with my brother and Baby Moses.
- Grace

I like playing in the water table.
- Skylar

I like doing crafts.
- Britta



HIGH SCHOOLERS

This year, our high school group has been learning new skills and building strong friendships in their Youth Group and in Life University. Life U is a series of classes during Youth Group time that brings in experts to teach students about important skills like car maintenance, money management, cooking, sewing, and more.

Q: What is your favorite thing about Life University & Youth Group?

Jack, senior: I'd say my favorite part about Youth Group is being able to reconnect with God with school and sports and whatnot. Life gets busy, you can forget about it sometimes, but this helps me bring everything back and remember why I love to be a Christian.

Lexi, sophomore: The car stuff. I think it's so interesting. I like checking the oil and I feel like I know how to do it. It's really fun to be able to learn and come to church. It's great because I get to go and learn about Jesus Christ and then I get to go and learn about my future and being able to improve.

Adam, senior: Last week we got to learn a lot about the finance stuff, which we go over briefly in school, but we definitely don't go in depth. It felt like you could ask a lot more questions and Mr. Schalg is the guy to go for that kind of stuff.

Q: What are you most looking forward to?

Molly, senior: Probably learning self defense, and all of the youth trips and other activities we do.

Owen, junior: Definitely the pumpkin carving. That was fun last year.

Jack: I'm looking forward to some pumpkin carving. I think that's my favorite event.

Stay cool! - Lexi



LOVE DOES stewardship

CONSECRATE: TO MAKE OR DECLARE SOMETHING SACRED

"People are becoming more religious, not less," is the topic that David Zahn considers in his book *Seculosity: How Career, Parenting, Technology, Food, Politics, and Romance Became Our New Religion and What to Do About It*. Zahn suggests that where once we looked to God for comfort, purpose, belonging, and salvation, today we seek those same things at the gym, in the kitchen, on social media, in the voting booth, in our relationships, and so on. We are ultimately searching for a sense of "enoughness."

One of the consequences of "seculosity" is that people search for enoughness in everyday achievements rather than in something transcendent or spiritual—that is, we begin justifying our lives by what we do and how we perform (even how good we are at taking a vacation!). It is exhausting. No matter where we turn, we are never enough. There is always something more to do, consume, or achieve. We find ourselves looking for identity, purpose, and belonging in ways that constantly demand more. This is not about moderation or balance; it is about identity.

Through OSLC's fall stewardship campaign *Love Does*, we anchored ourselves in God's love as the driver of our identity. As our focus verse says, "God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them" (1 John 4:16). Members of OSLC shared how God has impacted and transformed their lives. These testimonies provided inspiration, community, and tangible insights into the ways *Love Does*.

On October 30th, we celebrated Consecration Sunday, a time set aside to offer our lives and our congregation to God, intentionally naming that everything we are and we have is sacred. We are enough. Just as Pr. Lou reminded us, the same holds true for Our Savior's. Everything we need is here - the spiritual gifts, the people, the energy, and the joy. What we lack, God will provide.

1 Peter 2:5
You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood.

Thank you to the Stewardship and Consecration Sunday teams for helping us celebrate and set aside this time to ask for God's blessing upon the stewardship of our lives and congregation.

HEAR FROM OUR STEWARDSHIP TESTIMONIALS



Paula Seffrood: "I found that alone, I couldn't make the difference I envisioned. But, as our partnership motto states, 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.' Today I believe that because of this global ministry."



Vicki Koehn: "It is *all* about that Jesus stuff."



Dave Hammer: "God's grace fills us with gratitude, which encourages us to be generous. And when we're generous, we deliver good news to others, so that they come to know God's grace."



Heather Harris: "Something that I love to do... can spread the love anywhere."

GROWING IN GIVING



this Christmas

Christmas is a season of giving. We give and receive gifts from friends and family: the people we love. This season, let's grow our circle of loved ones and give to people experiencing need.

There are so many opportunities to give!

This holiday season, we have already begun our giving with the Promise for Haiti Kringle Fundraiser. As we enjoy delicious kringles, we also look forward to supporting our partnerships with Reformation, Family Promise, and Meru. Watch the email newsletter for updates on Reformation and Family Promise gift drives and keep reading for ways to support our friends in Meru.



MT. MERU

COFFEE PROJECT

Mt. Meru coffee: the perfect way to show love to people you know while also showing love to our partners in Tanzania. Give your friends and family delicious coffee and give Tanzanian coffee farmers the economic resources they need for Supporting Families, Growing Futures, and Changing Lives. Available at Our Savior's and online at oslc-wi.org/mt-meru-coffee-project.

Poinsettias for the Partnership

Support our partnership with the Kikatiti and Kitefu parishes in Meru, Tanzania by ordering a poinsettia. Pick your color and choose to take it home, give it as a gift, or have it be used to decorate the church in the memory of a loved one (those plants can then be taken home on Christmas Eve). The money raised will support our Partners in Kikatiti and Kitefu and assist with their building needs, church needs, and community challenges. Poinsettia sales will begin on November 27th.



YES | LIFT | TOOLS

Give students in Tanzania access to education at the Kikatiti Secondary School. This year, we want to provide scholarships to 25 students with a goal of raising \$15,000. Donate today by making out your check to OSLC-KSS and designate YES (Youth Education Scholarships), LIFT (Learning Initiatives For Teachers), or TOOLS (Textbooks and Supplies) in the memo. You can also give online at oslc-wi.org/yes/lift/tools.



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JOIN US FOR

Christmas Eve

AT OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



CANDLELIGHT SERVICES
3 PM | 5 PM | 10 PM