
OUR SAVIOR'S QUARTERLY



FALL
2023

Our Savior's visits with...

KIKATITI & KITEFU



Jambo! Delegation members Jennifer Ames, Gene Coffield, Olivia Coffield, David Holm, Sydney Stumme-Berg, and Pr. Sarah Stumme visited Kikatiti and Kitefu Parishes. Celebrating 16 years of partnership, this was the sixth OSLC delegation. Delegation members experienced first hand the transforming and life giving impact of the partnership.

We invite you to: Pray for and celebrate this global partnership. Make an investment in our partners through financial support of education, health, and food production initiatives. Please also consider purchasing Mt. Meru Coffee at OSLC. The Meru coffee project is transforming lives by providing a steady income for education and daily living. Asante Sana! Thank you very much!



The heart of the trip is friendship and shared ministry. Highlights included worshipping at eight preaching points, enjoying festive choir concerts, spending time with the elderly and homebound, and visiting Kikatiti Secondary School, the Meru Diocese orphanage, dispensary, rehabilitation center, and Meru coffee fields.



Investing in Education
We dedicated the new science classroom and laboratory in honor of the generous donation of the Beverly Bruno Memorial. This classroom will allow the school to expand its curriculum.

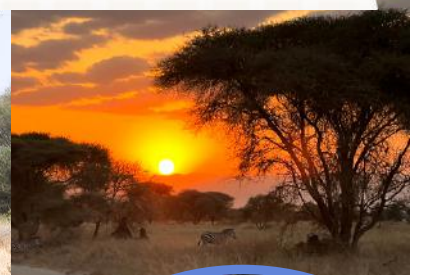




Each smile has a story
 Seeing the tireless good work of the church to bring healing, care, and hope was inspiring. Witnessing the challenges and devastating impact of climate change, hunger, and poverty was sobering.

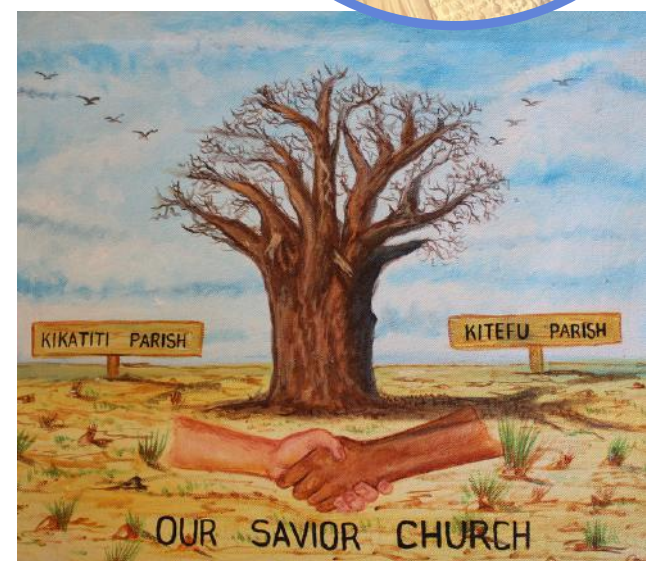


witnessing God's creation while on safari



Celebrating Partnership
 Kitefu Parish Partnership Committee and Our Savior's Lutheran Church delegation signed a partnership covenant celebrating shared ministry and commitment to one another.

Bwana Asifiwe!
 Praise the Lord!



Forming Faith

A LIFELONG JOURNEY

In Sunday Bible School, our goal is to create lifelong learners. That is because everyone, at any age, is still on a journey of faith and learning - and we seek to cultivate that path at Our Savior's, providing opportunities for faith formation at every stage of life.

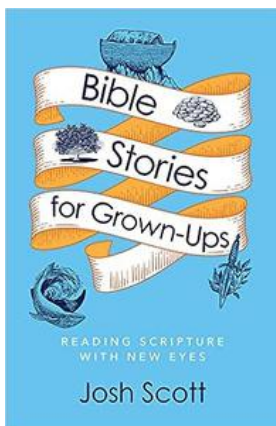
One of those meaningful opportunities is found in the small groups of OSLC. Small groups provide a space for closer connection and meaningful relationships. Whether through acts of service or times of learning and discussion, faith flourishes in community.

With fall on the horizon, many groups are beginning to organize back together again after a summer break. Sewing machines hum as quilters give warmth and love towards the Lutherdale summer camps and disaster relief worldwide; books are ordered and leaders are preparing for Bible studies and classes; Helping Hands sit together for coffee after a morning spent pitching in on projects around the church.

Now is the perfect time to join a small group and get connected to deeper community. Check out Pastor John's upcoming six-week course and **explore ongoing OSLC groups on Church Center.**

"I know lots of guys who literally walked the hallway outside DABS meetings, paced the hallway looking in, for several Sundays before opening up the door and actually walking in. But once they did, they were very thankful they took the chance."

-KEVIN KURSCHNER, LEADER OF "DADS AFRAID OF BIBLE STUDY" (DABS)



A new Bible Study with Pastor John

"BIBLE STORIES FOR GROWN-UPS" BY JOSH SCOTT
WEDNESDAYS AT 6:30 PM OR THURSDAYS AT 11 AM - BEGINS OCT 4

This six-week Bible study will explore stories many read as children, including Noah's Ark, Jonah and the big fish, and Jesus and Zacchaeus. We will reimagine these familiar stories and consider what God is speaking to us today. Come and read the Bible for the first time - again.

SIGN UP ON CHURCH CENTER! ✓

Church Center is designed to provide you with easy access to all the information you need to stay connected with the OSLC community. Once you've downloaded the app or accessed the website at oslc.churchcenter.com, you can find small groups under "Groups."

OSLC-WI.CHURCHCENTER.COM/SETUP

 church center

- Service Times
- Easy Giving
- Event Signups
- Community Connection
- Family Pre-Check

Download the app





FAITH MILESTONES

CELEBRATING LIFE IN FAITH, ONE MOMENT AT A TIME

FAITH MILESTONES:

BAPTISM

(0–adult)

BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARY

(ages 1–3, or after baptism)

ENTER SUNDAY SCHOOL

(ages 3–4)

RECEIVE BIBLE

(Kindergarten)

BACK-TO-SCHOOL BLESSING

(school age)

LORD’S PRAYER

(2nd grade)

FIRST COMMUNION

(any age, class in 3rd grade)

FRIENDSHIP

(4th grade)

FAMILY IDENTITY

(5th and 6th grade)

STEWARDSHIP

(5th and 6th grade)

SPLASH INTO CONFIRMATION

(7th grade)

CONFIRMATION

(8th grade)

High School Milestones:

SABBATH

DRIVER’S LICENSE

SPIRITUAL GIFTS AND IDENTITY

GRADUATION

Life is full of meaningful moments. We are excited to celebrate these moments with families through the practice of faith milestones.

With faith milestones, we bring an awareness of God’s presence into our homes and highlight the rituals of daily life experiences.

Each faith milestone acts as a marker along life’s journey that says, “This is something important, and God is here, too.”

Faith milestones provide support for parents to live out the promises they make to their children in baptism and build a lifelong foundation for helping children develop a sense of belonging, purpose, and identity. Parents are equipped to serve as the spiritual leaders in their household, with the opportunity for families to grow and practice their faith together.

Each milestone workshop practices naming, equipping, and blessing.

They include a faith conversation with parents and kids, introduce a faith practice, share resources, and engage in a time of blessing. Some milestones are practiced in a group format and others are designed for a home or individual setting.



COMING SOON: PARENTING CLASS WITH PASTOR SARAH

Join Pastor Sarah for a practical, effective workshop for parents of all ages with kids of all ages, which introduces proven principles for overcoming the anxieties and stresses of parenting and setting new patterns of connection and cooperation.

The class will be held at the YMCA at Pabst Farm on Monday evenings from 6 – 7:15 PM September 18–October 23. Register online at bit.ly/YMCA-ScreamFreeParenting.

YOUTH & FAMILY

JOIN US FOR RALLY DAY SEPT. 10! *Learn more on page 9*



SUNDAY BIBLE SCHOOL

PRE-K - 4TH GR. | SUN. 9:15 - 10:15 AM

Kids are invited to journey with us on an expedition into the Bible, with adventurous games, creative crafts, explorations in science and cooking, and lots of fun!



BLAST!

5TH - 6TH GR. | SUN. 9:15 - 10:15 AM

All 5th and 6th graders are invited to meet with Bethany for Bible Learning Adventure Stories. We'll be learning through videos, science projects, crafts, and more!



CONFIRMATION

7TH - 8TH GR. | WED. 6:30-8 PM

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.



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

9TH - 12 GR. | WED. 6:30 - 8 PM

Students come together for worship, fellowship, and fun! One feature of the high school program is Life University, a series of classes on life skills like car maintenance, self defense, and more. We also engage in service projects and leadership.

YOUTH WORSHIP | Wednesdays 6:30 - 7 PM, starting Sept. 13

LEARN MORE

Visit oslc-wi.org/youth-and-family-ministries for more information and to register. Contact Children's Ministry Director Lori Nahirniak at lori.nahirniak@oslc-wi.org or Youth Ministry Director Bethany Kurschner at bethany.kurschner@oslc-wi.org to connect.

OSLC STUDENTS SERVE IN NASHVILLE, TN

What do 1,257 pairs of shoes, 7,391 pounds of food, and pallets of medical supplies all have in common with nine high school girls? They sum up one amazing service trip by our OSLC Youth.

On Sunday, July 23rd, nine students and three adult leaders loaded into a van and started on an adventure that would change lives. The first stop was Soles4Souls, where the 330 donated pairs of shoes from OSLC were delivered. Our students sorted 1,257 pairs of shoes as they contemplated what it would be like to not have a single decent pair of shoes. Kelley Krueger said, "Souls4Soles gives shoes to other countries around the world so kids and adults can have something to walk on. And that might not seem like a lot to some people, but that will change their lives forever. **I really love doing these kinds of things because it helps me appreciate the things that I have and makes me more aware of ways to help others in need.**"

Mission Day Two, the students worked outside in sweltering heat at Bell Garden. They weeded, picked blackberries, and mulched, tending gardens that serve the local community. This was followed by sorting 7,391 pounds of food at Second Harvest. One student did the math and determined they had sorted enough food to feed one person for seven years. What an impact!

The final stop was at Project C.U.R.E., which takes in donated medical supplies and equipment from hospitals and distributes it around the world. The OSLC team sorted and organized medical supplies, removing expired medications. Leah Blair said, "**I definitely felt God's presence in knowing that we are helping.**"

Many thanks to leaders Casey Krueger, Molly Neumann, and Bethany Kurschner for their mentorship on this trip and making such a meaningful experience possible. Molly shared, "there were many times we had to make them take a break since they wanted to just keep working. **All of them were looking for moments where they felt God moving through the work that they did.** They also had a ton of fun together exploring Nashville and forging really strong bonds with one another." We can't wait to see where the youth travel next!



Message from Pastor John

YOU'RE STUCK WITH ME NOW

This past year has been a bit of whirlwind. After Pastor Sarah invited me last summer to come help out at Our Savior's on an interim basis, I have been meeting people and getting to know the community, finding myself immersed in the congregation and very much enjoying my time. Now, the call has been extended for me to stay on a permanent basis. My first thoughts are of gratitude to God for this congregation and for the mission we have been given. My second thought is, "YOU'RE STUCK WITH ME NOW!"

That is life in community in a nutshell – we are "stuck" with each other. Stuck with the joys and triumphs of life together. Stuck with the grief and sadness that inevitably interrupts our lives. Stuck with the feeling of connection and power that comes with the recognition that God's Spirit is moving mightily in our midst.

You all might be stuck with me, but the reality is that we are all stuck with God. Stuck with the One who is relentless and does not give up on us... ever. Stuck with the One who not only invites us, but also welcomes us and loves us as we are, no exceptions. Stuck with the One who has a plan for us to join in changing the world.



As people stuck with God, we are looking back even as we move forward. We look back to notice and remember where God has been at work in the world around us, so that we might share our experience and witness to others about what we have seen and heard. That is what this Quarterly magazine is all about: it is an opportunity to look back on how God has been present and active in what we have done this summer and then to look forward to the places, the people, and the opportunities that God is placing in our path in the future.

This is the rhythm of life in community as God's "stuck people": looking back to witness and celebrate, looking forward with hope and anticipation, and living in the present with grace, trust, and compassion.

Thank you for inviting and welcoming me on this journey with you at Our Savior's. I am honored and grateful to be stuck with you too.

Pr. John Berg

WORSHIP WITH US THIS FALL

C. S. Lewis was right when he said, "Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea, until they have something to forgive." On one level, it is very simple, at least in theory. "Forgive as you have been forgiven," Jesus said. But it is difficult to do. Beginning September 10th, we will dive into a worship series that looks at what forgiveness is, what it isn't, and the tools that help us live out forgiveness in our relationships, families, and community.



STEWARDSHIP AT OSLC



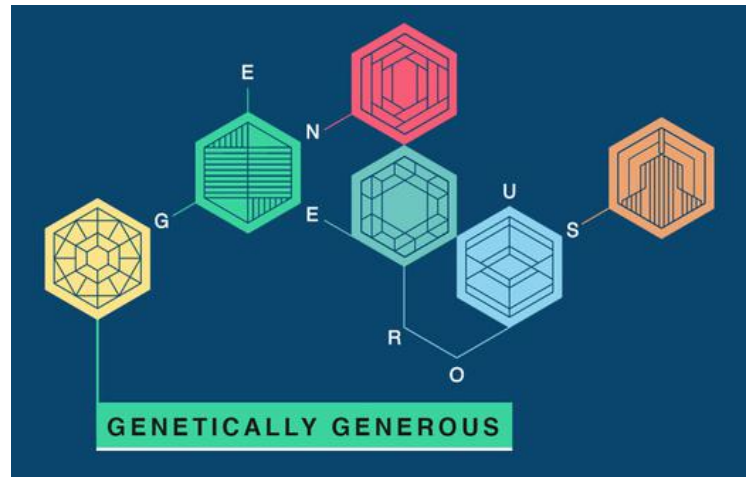
In May, we embarked on the Growing Together campaign with an invitation to invest further in the mission God has given us at Our Savior's. Throughout the campaign, we have been inspired by the collective witness of OSLC's council members as they have shared what they love about this congregation and how this community of faith has made a difference in their lives. We are pleased to share that 103 households made a total commitment of \$97,145 towards our goal of \$100,000. We are grateful for everyone who was able to contribute to this effort as we continue to grow in generosity and in living into our mission of **Sharing the Love of Christ to Transform Lives.**

coming this fall...

Join us in October for a sermon series on the ways we are genetically wired by God to be generous with our time, talents, and treasures.

SAVE THE DATE

Celebration Breakfast on Sunday, October 29
Come celebrate the mission and community of Our Savior's and enjoy a wonderful meal together.



Mission Possible

PRACTICING THE ART OF WELCOME

Mission Possible is a grassroots ministry team educating ourselves on social issues to help our church and community become more authentically welcoming. We do this through workshops, Bible study, book and video studies, and in-depth conversations, all while having fun! Currently we are in the process of conducting one-on-one conversations with OSLC members to learn about what people love about OSLC, to hear their experience of being welcomed, and to share a draft of a welcome statement for OSLC. We look forward to connecting with more members in the coming months. If you are interested in learning more about Mission Possible, please contact John Corning, Martha Riley, or Cherri Schleicher; we'd love to talk to you!

Coming Soon | an educational event on Sunday, October 8 – details to come.

Music Ministry

SING, RING, & PRAISE THE KING!



PRAISE BAND

Performances: 10:30 AM service, each week

Rehearsals: Sundays at 11:30 AM

This past summer, OSLC has enjoyed the worship series Soul Summer as we explored God's Playlist: the Psalms, a book filled with song and poetry. We also experienced amazing performances from our own playlist of songs from the world that inspired us, got us thinking, and showed us new perspectives.

Music is a beautiful and powerful way to experience worship and praise. Here at Our Savior's, everyone can engage in uplifting, meaningful music thanks to members of our congregation who share their talents with us through the Praise Band, Alleluia Choir, and bell choirs. **Do you have a gift that you can share? We invite you to join in this music ministry!**



YOUTH BELL RINGERS

Performances: both services, intermittently

Rehearsals: Wednesdays at 5:30 PM



RHONDO JUBILATE BELL CHOIR

Performances: both services, once a month

Rehearsals: Thursdays at 6:30 PM



ALLELUIA CHOIR

Performances: 8 AM service, two to three times a month

Rehearsals: Wednesdays at 7 PM

Get involved in music ministry by contacting Taras Nahirniak at taras.nahirniak@oslc-wi.org!

you're invited!

RALLY DAY SEPT. 10 AT 9:15 AM

Come celebrate the kickoff of our fall ministries at Rally Day! Our kids will enjoy the first day of Sunday Bible School and 7th grade students will take a jump into the lake to celebrate the beginning of their journey in confirmation. We can't wait to see you there!



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WORSHIP WITH US

FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE RESUMES SEPT. 10

Sundays

8 AM Traditional
9:15 AM Children's Ministry
10:30 AM Praise

Wednesdays

6:30 PM Youth Worship

Saturdays

5 PM Traditional Indoor

get connected!

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A group of OSLC high schoolers took a trip to Nashville, TN where they served the community, worked together, and had lots of fun! Turn to page 6 to read all about it.