
OUR SAVIOR'S QUARTERLY



SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST TO TRANSFORM LIVES

WINTER
2024



100 DAYS

Three months ago, we embarked on a mission to uplift and support our community. For a full 100 days, we have been engaging in opportunities to connect, bless, pray, serve, and surround our church and our neighborhoods in beauty and compassion.

We kicked off our 100 Days with a beautiful picnic outside. We gathered for Bible studies, prayer groups, Feeding America volunteering, partnership ministries, and meaningful worship. We ate meals together, donated items to pantry drives and fundraisers, and took time to be thankful, joyful, and intentional. We have uplifted ourselves, our community, and our faith.

This season may finish on November 24, but the impact of our 100 Days will carry on with us as we move forward. These moments of blessing and kindness become who we are: a church that is the Body of Christ.

100 DAYS OF STEWARDSHIP

Over the past 100 Days, we've embraced the many ways we can fulfill OSLC's mission to *Share the Love of Christ to Transform Lives*. Through acts of compassion, service, kindness, prayer, and generosity, we reveal the movement of God's Spirit and the strength of our community.

These practices are stewardship—caring for the gifts of time, energy, talents, and resources that God has entrusted to each of us. Research shows it takes 30 days to create a habit, and during these 100 Days, we've focused on building habits that deepen our walk with Jesus and integrate these practices into the life of our church.

We thank God for this mission and extend our gratitude to each member and friend of Our Savior's for making our congregation a welcoming, faithful, and joyful community.

"A church becomes the Body of Christ when it continues Christ's mission in the world and embraces being the greatest force for goodness, truth, and beauty in one's zip code."

- LEN SWEET

IMPACT SNAPSHOT

22,000+ meals prepared with Feeding America

110+ lasagnas made with Lasagna Love

162 quilts made and **\$1,636** raised for Lutheran World Relief

28 beautiful pictures of God and creation

...and so much more.

THANK YOU!



CELEBRATE THE SEASON!

SCANDINAVIAN COOKIES

BAKING
DECEMBER 7
8 AM - 12 PM

SALE
DECEMBER 8
9:15 - 10:15 AM

The Scandinavian Cookie Bake is a wonderful time to gather together for conversation and, of course, cookies! Don your apron and join the team starting at 8 AM. Afterwards, enjoy lunch and fellowship. Great for families and learning how to make new kinds of cookies!

Cookies will be sold in between worship services on December 8. Choose from a selection of your favorite Scandinavian treats - including lefse!

CHILDREN'S PAGEANT

DECEMBER 15 - 10:30 AM

Join us for a delightful performance from kids in Sunday Bible School at the annual Christmas Pageant.

This year's program is "The Christmas Express":

"All aboard! Every Christmas Eve the passengers on The Christmas Express make the journey to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania to celebrate the birth of Christ with a grand pageant. We invite you to join this joyful journey as we see how God orchestrates a night of miracles to help us all remember the true meaning of Christmas... Jesus."





CHRISTMAS CONCERT

DECEMBER 15 - 3 PM

Experience the story of Christmas through the lens of music as the Alleluia Choir, Rhondo Jubilate Bell Choir, Praise Band, and more perform for the annual Christmas Concert. Free will donations will be collected for the music program.

Stay after the concert for a cookie walk supporting the OSLC youth ministry!

YOUTH COOKIE WALK

DECEMBER 15

FOLLOWING CONCERT

After the final applause of the Christmas Concert, ready your treat bags and select your favorite cookies to take home. There will be something for everyone, all lovingly baked by the youth group, congregation members, and leaders. There may even be a chance to get the last of the Scandinavian cookies!

For when it's hard to celebrate...

BLUE CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 11

6:30 PM

For many, the holidays can be a difficult and lonely time. The Blue Christmas service provides a space for people struggling with health issues, loss of a loved one, loss of a job, or feelings of sadness or depression to come together and find peace. It is a candlelight service with music, scripture, and a comforting message.

You are invited to come be supported and build community as we seek hope and healing together.

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ADVENT AT OSLC

All are invited to prepare for the coming of Christ this Advent with the worship series, "Words for the Beginning." Like a quilt formed by scraps of old fabrics and meaningful family items, this worship series stitches together the ancient scriptures and promises we need to hear again and again.

Join us starting on December 1 for Advent worship at 8 & 10:30 AM.

ADVENT: A SEASON OF ENDINGS & BEGINNINGS

In many ways, pregnant Mary was surrounded by endings —large and small. But Mary nevertheless proclaimed hope in a God who was and is making all things new. Christ's birth offered a beautiful new beginning for shepherds and Magi alike. When we ourselves navigate seasons filled with endings and beginnings, we need reminders. We need words that can feel like steady ground, like a path for our feet to find as we step forward into the unknown.

As you journey through this season, may you find words for belovedness and hope. May you find words for beginning again. For no matter what you are facing, no matter what this new day brings, love is your beginning.



Light OF THE World

CHRISTMAS AT OUR SAVIOR'S

For centuries, the Christmas story has captured hearts—the humble birth of Jesus to Mary and Joseph in a quiet manger. This Christmas, come and find yourself in the wonder of that night. Together, let's rediscover the hope, light, and love that Christ brings into our lives today.

Our Savior's special Christmas services will include candlelight, your favorite hymns, and an uplifting message of Christ's presence and peace with us.

Gather for Lessons & Carols on Christmas Eve morning at 10 AM. Families will enjoy the 3 & 5 PM services with a special skit for kids and your favorite Christmas carols led by the Praise Band. At 8 PM, we will hear beautiful performances from the Alleluia Choir as we head into the night. The next morning, join us at 9 AM to celebrate Christmas Day.

DECEMBER 24 | 10 AM • 3 PM • 5 PM • 8 PM

DECEMBER 25 | 9 AM

**ENJOY CANDELIGHT
AT EVERY
CHRISTMAS EVE
SERVICE**

In this season, consider inviting those around you who might be alone or looking for a place to worship to come and experience the holidays with our faith community.

If you are traveling, we wish you well and Godspeed as you gather with God's people wherever you may be.



Showing Up

Jan. 11 – Feb. 2

Did you know that while nearly 80% of people report they are caring and compassionate, about 80% of people also report feeling unseen and unsupported?

Join us for a new message series inspired by Jen Marr's work, "Showing Up," as we explore how this surprising gap reveals a need for deeper, more intentional connections in our lives. Through practical, compassionate actions, we can help bridge this divide—transforming lives, strengthening our faith, and building a resilient community. And on January 25 & 26, you'll have the chance to hear directly from Jen Marr as she joins us in worship!

One of the most important things you can do on this earth is to let people know they are not alone.

S. Alder



OUR YOUTH LEAD!

This fall, OSLC launched the LEAD (Leadership, Education, Adventure, Discipleship) Internship, a new initiative for high school students. Seventeen students have joined the program for the fall semester, serving in various roles across our congregation.

You may have noticed them in action—supporting Sunday Bible School, working the tech desk, leading worship, caring for children in the nursery, and extending hospitality.

Thanks to the contributions of our LEAD interns, OSLC has introduced a special "Kids in Worship" segment during worship services. This new segment engages children with a Bible story and activity during the message, making worship more accessible and interactive for our youngest members.

LEAD interns also serve as Sunday School Buddies, offering one-on-one support and friendship to younger children, creating meaningful relationships and a supportive environment.

We are grateful for their dedication and are thrilled by the success of this first semester. There is no better way for OSLC to invest its resources than by empowering our youth as both leaders and followers of Jesus.

In addition to LEAD, many of our high school students are active in the Wednesday evening youth group and participate in the Youth Leadership Board (YLB). Thank you, High School Students, for your inspiring example and commitment to serving others!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Smorgasbord

FEBRUARY 12 | 3 – 7:30 PM

Celebrate the Scandinavian heritage of Our Savior's at the annual Smorgasbord! This amazing community-wide meal features Swedish meatballs, ham, turkey, lefse, rommegot, herring, rutabaga, salads, sweet breads, rice pudding, fruit soup and more. All are invited to come and eat!

Watch for opportunities to get involved: Cookie Day is January 30; Meatball Monday is February 10; and volunteers are needed for the meal. Get your tickets starting December 5!



Kids Winter VBS

JANUARY 12 – FEBRUARY 9

Kids ages 3 years through 4th grade are invited to a special Winter VBS during Sunday School!

Welcome to Hometown Nazareth, where Jesus was a kid! We'll explore Jesus' hometown through the eyes of his mother, Mary. Each week, kids will share God's love in rotations with shopkeepers, Mary's neighbor, the tax collector, the rabbi, and the Fun and Games leader.

No cost or registration needed – all kids who are signed up for Sunday School are invited!



CHRISTMAS GIVING

Share the joy of 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.

An offering envelope is enclosed to further the the mission and ministry of Our Savior's, including support of partnership ministries. Together, we share the love of Christ to transform lives.



REFORMATION GIFT DRIVE

NOV. 3 - DEC. 8

Every year, Reformation Lutheran Church invites parents to come to Reformation and pick out toys and other gifts for their children, ages infant to teenagers. Here at OSLC, we collect gifts to contribute. Pick up a wishlist at the gift drive table and help make Christmas special for our neighbors in Milwaukee! Bring in donations by December 8.



POINSETTIAS FOR THE PARTNERSHIP

NOV. 13 - DEC. 15

Spread holiday cheer with a beautiful poinsettia! Choose from a variety of poinsettias to give as a gift or to decorate the church for Christmas. All proceeds will be given to the Kikatiti and Kitefu parishes.



MT. MERU COFFEE

As you begin your Christmas shopping, consider the gift of Mt. Meru Coffee. When you purchase this delicious coffee, you give Tanzanian coffee farmers the resources to support their families and grow their potential. Visit Holy Grounds to purchase from Our Savior's Mt. Meru selection or to place an order.

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WORSHIP *with us*

Sundays

8 AM Traditional
10:30 AM Praise

Wednesdays

6:30 PM Youth

Saturdays*

5 PM Traditional

*Saturday worship will be paused during Advent. The last service of the season will be November 23 and will resume January 4.



OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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We look forward to a beautiful Christmas season. Read inside for all our special events and candlelit Christmas Eve services.

*Silent night, holy night
Son of God, love's pure light*