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# OUR SAVIOR'S QUARTERLY

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SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST TO TRANSFORM LIVES

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## WINTER 2025

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# WELCOME



Dear Friends,

This fall in worship, we've been sharing what I like to call "the church prayer" as our benediction:

*Holy God, your church is composed of people like me.*

*I help make it what it is: It will be friendly if I am.*

*It will do great work if I work.*

*It will show up with love if I show up with love.*

*It will do ministries of mission if I do them.*

*It will be generous if I am a generous giver.*

*It will be a church where people grow in faith*

*If I am open to such growth and service.*

*Therefore, with your help, I dedicate myself to the task*

*Of making your Church all that you want it to be. Amen.*

I remember the first time I was invited to pray this prayer in church. It felt intimidating and empowering all at the same time. Every time we pray it together at Our Savior's, it connects me more deeply to the ministry of the body of Christ. It's a life-giving reminder of how the Holy Spirit gathers our gifts and binds us together amid all that life brings—the joy and the grief, the laughter and the friendship—to share the love of Christ to transform lives.

This prayer comes to life at OSLC in so many ways. For example, in the stories from our "I Like Giving" campaign—what started as a fun stewardship opportunity turned into something really special as people showed up with generosity and creativity. It's powerful to see OSLC showing up for one another and the community.

As we move into Advent and Christmas, I hope you'll join us. There's something about this season that invites us to slow down, to wonder, and to celebrate together. And we're already looking ahead to 2026 with excitement about the ways God is calling us to grow and serve together.

In hope and gratitude, Pr. Sarah





# STEWARDSHIP



## “I Like Giving” Campaign Stories

In September, we handed out 50 “I Like Giving” envelopes, each with \$20 to use to brighten someone’s day. Here are a few stories of how some people chose to share that gift:

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### *I like care packages! - Molly*

For my \$20 Kindness Campaign project, I used the money to support a service project that my two friends and I run at our school, where we create and send care packages to troops overseas. I used the \$20 to help buy supplies for the packages—snacks, hygiene items, pens, pencils, and other small comforts from home. We also include handwritten cards from students, making each package personal and heartfelt. This year, our packages are going to 173 troops stationed in South Korea, which made the project feel even more real and important. Since the packages are mailed overseas, we don’t get to see the reactions of the soldiers, but that’s part of what makes it meaningful—it’s a genuine act of kindness done purely from the heart. Knowing that our effort might bring comfort, encouragement, or just a small reminder of home to someone serving far away makes me feel proud and grateful. This project has shown me how even a small group of people can make a real difference when they care enough to try, and how acts of kindness can connect a community across miles and oceans.

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### *I like baking! - Olivia*



For the I like giving campaign I decided to make cookies. I made cookies for my neighbors on my block. I used the \$20 to buy supplies and bake the cookies. My neighbors were very surprised when I showed up at their house and were very thankful and happy. I didn’t get to give the elderly neighbors across the street and on the other side of the block cookies because they weren’t home, but I plan to make more to give them. I learned that a small act of kindness can brighten someone’s day and make them feel good that someone thought of them.

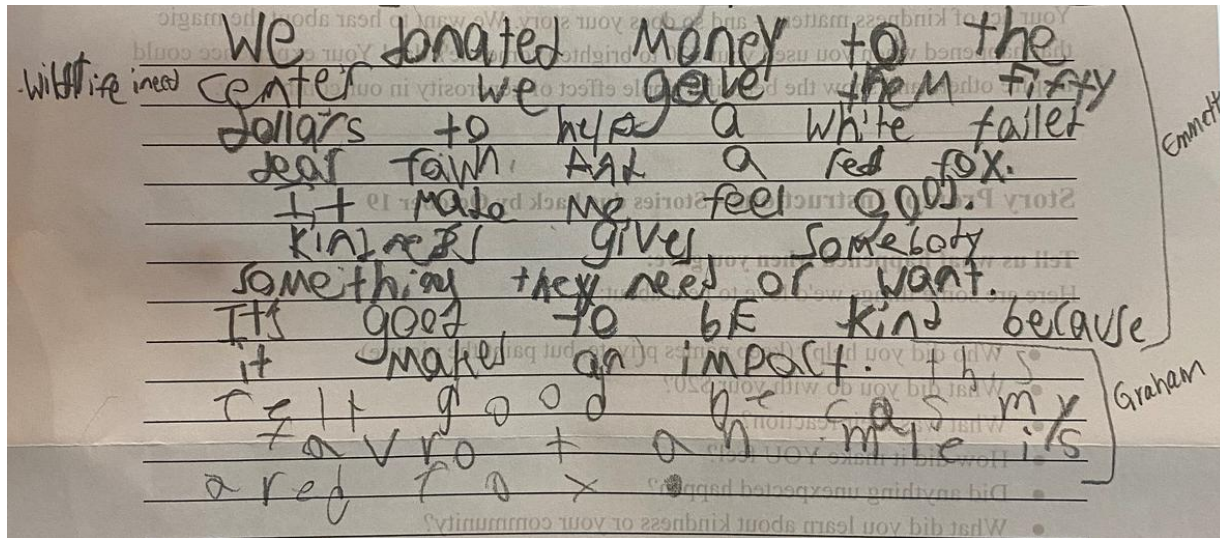
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### *I like hope! - Sandy*

I gave my \$20 to a shopper at Goodwill who I didn’t know. She didn’t speak English very fluently, but I managed to let her know I wanted to help buy something for her, and hoped to spread kindness. She looked around as if to see a hidden requirement or “catch”, and I said she could pass kindness on, but the \$20 was just for her. She started to cry and said “Oh thank you, thank you. God bless you!” I unexpectedly also started crying, and the moment we shared had a power that went beyond our language barrier. I quickly exited the store and cried all the way out to my car. I felt like this act of kindness gave her a little feeling of hope and love—as it did for me. Thank you for letting me be part of this.

# STEWARDSHIP

*We like animals! - Emmett & Graham*



*I like "popcorn"! - Robin*

On Sunday afternoon, Joyce and I went to Metro Market to do our weekly shopping. As we entered the store a Boy Scout troop was having a fund raiser by selling popcorn. As we walked past the table, a young scout approached Joyce and asked if she wanted to buy some popcorn. She told them we'd finish our shopping and think about it.

After shopping we discussed it and decided that we didn't need the popcorn. Before we walked up to the Scout Troop table, the \$20 challenge came to mind. Joyce approached the young man and said, we don't want any popcorn but would like to make a contribution to your troop. Joyce told the scout that her two brothers and our son were all scouts at his age and that she herself was a Girl Scout. Therefore, we felt it was important to support the scouts organization anyway we could. The scout got really excited, said thank you and ran to his dad, who was the leader, and said "Look, she just gave me \$20 and doesn't want to buy anything." It felt good to us when he was so happy and excited to get the donation and hearing him say, "they don't want anything." This reinforced our belief that kindness can be done very simply and be graciously received. It felt good!!

*Thank you!*

Thank you for being a part of this vibrant and growing congregation. We are grateful for the people of Our Savior's and the opportunity to join in the mission and ministry God has given!

As we plan for the work ahead in 2026, we invite you to fill out an Estimate of Giving card if you haven't already.

You can also scan the QR code to fill out the card electronically:



# 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.



## 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. Visit Holy Grounds to purchase from Our Savior's Mt. Meru selection or place an order.

## POINSETTIAS FOR THE PARTNERSHIP

**NOV. 2 - DEC. 7**

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.

## REFORMATION GIFT DRIVE

**NOV. 2 - DEC. 7**

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 wish list at the gift drive table and help make Christmas special for our neighbors in Milwaukee! Bring in donations by December 7.

## PROMISE FOR HAITI SILENT AUCTION

**NOV. 1 - NOV. 9**

Stop by the Silent Auction to support Haiti Health Partners! Your purchases help provide life-sustaining care for families in Pignon, Haiti, where the hospital serves patients, schools provide daily meals, and ministry programs thrive through dedicated local Haitians serving as the hands and feet of Christ. Browse and bid to make a difference! Items will be displayed in the gathering space.





# CELEBRATE THE SEASON

## SCANDINAVIAN COOKIES

BAKING  
DECEMBER 6  
8 AM - 12 PM

SALE  
DECEMBER 7  
9:15 - 10:15 AM

The Scandinavian Cookie Bake is a wonderful time to gather together for conversation and, of course, cookies! Put on 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 7. Choose from a selection of your favorite Scandinavian treats - including lefse!



## CHILDREN'S PAGEANT

DECEMBER 14 - 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 titled *All Creation Sings*:

"We have heard the nativity story many times, but never like this... The animals who were there are ready to speak at last! The butterflies, donkey, dog, cows, sheep, and camels will all recount the miraculous tale of Jesus' birth. Even the skeptical mouse finds faith by the story's end."

Hope to see you there!



# CELEBRATE THE SEASON

## CHRISTMAS CONCERT

DECEMBER 14 - 3 PM

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

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



## YOUTH COOKIE WALK

DECEMBER 14

FOLLOWING 10:30 WORSHIP AND CONCERT

After 10:30 worship and after 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 10 - 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.





# Advent

insisting on Hope this season

## ADVENT AT OSLC

All are invited to prepare for the coming of Christ this Advent  
with the worship series, "Insisting on Hope this Season."  
Join us starting November 30th for Advent worship at 8 & 10:30 AM.

As you journey through Advent, may you find depth, beauty, and rest. May your  
hope grow both tender and strong. This season, we insist on hope together—  
trusting that the Light is coming, and that good news has the final word.

Devotions and Advent calendars for children and adults  
are available for your advent journey.





# The Light of Christ

## CHRISTMAS AT OUR SAVIOR'S

A humble birth. A quiet manger. Mary, Joseph, and the child who would change the world. 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.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Kids Winter VBS

JANUARY 11 - FEBRUARY 8

Join us at "Hero Hotline" Winter VBS! Kids ages 3 years through 4th grade are invited to a special Winter VBS during Sunday School!

At the Hero Hotline Headquarters, everyone's gifts matter and every hero has a role to play. Together, we'll explore stories from the Bible to learn from everyday heroes who worked together to bring peace, build each other up, and share God's love.

Kids will experience these stories through music, drama, games, crafts, science, and snacks — all while learning what it means to follow Jesus, help others, work together, listen to God, and show grace.



## Smorgasbord

FEBRUARY 11

Celebrate the Scandinavian heritage of Our Savior's at the annual Smorgasbord! This amazing community-wide meal features Swedish meatballs, ham, turkey, lefse, rommegrot, 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 on January 29

Meatball Monday on February 9

Volunteers are needed for the meal. Thanks for your help!



## Breathing Underwater

*A Sermon Series & Book Study on Spirituality and the Twelve Steps*

We are starting the new year with a sermon series based on *Breathing Under Water* by Richard Rohr—an exploration of how the spirituality of the Twelve Steps can lead us toward healing and wholeness and connect us with Jesus' mission of redemption and transformation. We all have patterns—behaviors, thoughts, routines, or belief systems—that can keep us from healing. You're invited to go deeper.

Join us as we learn to identify what holds us back, embrace our brokenness, and trust in God's grace to carry us through. As the author writes, "We cannot stop the drowning waters of our addictive culture from rising, but we must at least see our reality for what it is" and learn to breathe underwater. This is a journey toward healing—for ourselves and our world. It requires honesty, courage, and openness.

*Join us for a book study as we discuss Breathing Under Water together.*

Book study: January 11, 18 & 25 | Sundays 9:15 - 10:15 AM, Register on ChurchCenter or at the Welcome Desk



**Worship Series:** January 10/11 - January 31/February 1  
Saturdays at 5:00 PM | Sundays at 8:00 and 10:30 AM



# COUNCIL



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# WORSHIP with us

## Sundays

8:00 AM Traditional

10:30 AM Praise

## Saturdays

5:00 PM Traditional





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# *Christmas*

AT OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

**DECEMBER 24 | 10 AM • 3 PM • 5 PM • 8 PM**  
**DECEMBER 25 | 9 AM**