

Stops along the way:

***First Lutheran Church, Colorado Springs CO; Christ the King, Ferguson, MO; Calvary, Belleville, IL; Trinity, Moline, IL; Augustana Campus Church, Rock Island, IL; Trinity, Fort Atkinson, WI; Shepherd of the Hills, Boulder, CO; Luther Sr. City, Columbus, OH; St. Timothy, Menasha, WI; Lutheran Campus Ministry, Oshkosh, WI; All Saints, Oshkosh, WI; Our Savior's, Neenah, WI.***

From baptism to retirement, these are the congregations that have inspired me, shaped me, nurtured me in the faith and encouraged me in my relationship with God and God's people.

I think of all of the pastors, VBS and Sunday School teachers, the youth directors, and all of the faithful Christians that these congregations represent and I am so thankful for their presence in my life. They taught me about Jesus, told me stories from the Bible, and introduced me to the joys of Christian community. They baptized me, confirmed me and invited me to the Lord's Table. Worship was at times exciting, at others a bit boring, but I was always invited to participate.

For the last 21 years, Our Savior's has been our church home. I am especially grateful for my time here. I have lived in Neenah longer than I have lived anywhere in my life and have set deep roots here in the community. You have taught me well, been supportive in difficult times and been wonderful partners in ministry. I will always give thanks to God for my time with you.

Sometimes I am asked where Bill and I will be going to church after January 31. We all know it won't be at OSLC, but I honestly don't know where God will lead us. But I trust that wherever we land, God will continue to be faithful to us, as in the past. And the same will be for you too.

God will bless every stop along the way!

See you in church.  
Grace and Peace,

*Pastor Cath Mode*

## Confirmation News

**Grades 6, 7 & 8:** Class resumes on Wednesday, January 3.

**Grades 7 & 8:** The UNITY Service is on January 31. This is in place of class that evening and a requirement for students. The bus will leave at 5:45 and return by 8:00pm. Students are asked to bring an offering to this event.

**Youth Event**—Our next youth event is Wednesday, January 3, at 4 p.m. At the request of several students, we are playing a favorite team game from last year, “Making Something out of Nothing.” Dinner will be served around 5. Please bring a \$3 donation to help cover the cost of the meal. Don’t miss it!

**JYG Coming Soon**—The 2018 ELCA East Central Wisconsin Synod Junior High Youth Gathering will be held February 17-18 at the Holiday Inn in Manitowoc. More information about the gathering agenda, cost and hotel information will be coming soon. Parent chaperones will also be needed. This is a great weekend event packed full of worship, learning and fellowship, so mark your calendars now!

**Come to the Youth Room-** All 6-8<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to come to the Youth Room during the education hour (9:15-10:15 a.m.) on the first and third Sundays of the month. (January 7 and 21.) Kids will earn one point for coming to this hour of low-key lessons, games and treats. If you have questions, contact Karen Whitmer at [kwhitmer@our-saviors.org](mailto:kwhitmer@our-saviors.org)

## Sunday School News

The Sunday school children’s Christmas program wouldn’t be possible without the wonderful directors and musicians. Thank you to our directors Katie Ricketts, Shelley Wautlet and Sandy Meier, music people Ardy Kreuter and Berdie Golden, tech person Debbie Burmeister, and thank you also to Alexa Meier, Holly Arens, Kristin Ely-Bluemke, and Karen Strupp. Last but not least, thank you to the Sunday school children for the great performance in the Christmas program, and to all the wonderful Sunday school teachers for their help with the program. Fabulous Show!

Welcome back to Sunday school on January 7, at 9:15 a.m. Something to look forward too:

--Music will continue to be taught from 9:15 – 9:30am.

--Mini class for the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders on January 28 at 9:30am

--February we will have “Fat Sunday” instead of Fat Tuesday.

## Sunday School Mini-Class

There will be a mini-class, entitled ‘Who is Martin Luther?’ for children in grades four and five and their parents on January 28 beginning at 9:30 a.m. The students will be honored at the 10:30 a.m. worship service following the class. Parents, please plan to attend with your child.

## Summer Youth Trips

### **National Youth Gathering—“THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING”**

Current 8<sup>th</sup> graders – H.S. Seniors

Our Savior’s is sending a group to this summer’s National Youth Gathering in Houston, TX! The dates are June 27 - July 1, 2018. The Gathering is a five-day event that bring 30,000 teens together from across the United States. How cool is that!

**Middle School Mission Trip** – Students currently in grades 5-8 are encouraged to participate in a summer mission trip to Milwaukee. The details are still being worked on, but it will be a 2 night/3 day trip. Join us as we feed the homeless, work at a food pantry, read to preschoolers and visit with the elderly. Interested in taking a road trip and making a difference? Come to the informational meeting on Wednesday, January 24 at 6:45 p.m.

Contact Marcie Kimmes at [mkimmes@our-saviors.org](mailto:mkimmes@our-saviors.org) or Karen Whitmer at [kwhitmer@our-saviors.org](mailto:kwhitmer@our-saviors.org) if you are interested in either one of these opportunities.

**“God’s Work. Our Hands” - Yes, YOU can make a difference! Here are some opportunities to share God’s love in our community.**

### **Pizza Build 2018**

Our National Youth Gathering group is sponsoring this year’s pizza sale which will take place Super Bowl Saturday, February 3. Order envelopes will be available in early January. Watch the announcements for more details.

**Mental Health Initiative** - *Did you know that mental illnesses are medical conditions just like cancer, diabetes or a heart condition?* Our MHM team is excited to share information, stories and resources within our congregation in 2018. As a faith community, we’ll focus on education, intervention, recovery and support for people struggling with mental illness as well as the friends and families who support them. Contact Marcie Kimmes at 725-3956 if you have questions or would like more info.

### **355 Hams! Thank You Our Saviors!**

We raised enough money to cover the cost of all 355 hams needed for the Brigade Baskets. The total cost was \$2,396.25. Thank you for your generosity.

### **Generous Living Stewardship results**

This year 143 pledges were made toward our 2018 financial needs. We received 88 Financial Pledges from those using offering envelopes and 55 Financial Pledges toward Simply giving, using automatic withdrawals.

Though the number of pledges didn’t meet our goal of 175, promised giving did increase over 2016. (We don’t have final results for 2017.) It is not too late! Please consider making a financial pledge toward the 2018 budget. Prospective pastors pay attention to the percentage of member who pledge and pledges help the council plan responsibly for the New Year. Pledges also represent our trust in God’s goodness.

Pledges for giving time will be addressed later this winter or early spring. Thank you for your generosity.

## **Memorials & Honorariums Received**

**A special thank you to those who remembered**

*Marv Landsverk  
Wilbur Voss  
Rasmus Radick*

## **Save the Date**

**Godspeed, Pastor Cath!  
Retirement Celebration  
Sunday, January 21, 2018  
12:00 noon  
More information to follow!**



*Above, taken during Pastor Cath’s last time teaching First Communion. And below, at a recent Baptism.*



## Snowbirds

Are you getting ready to head south for the winter? Please be sure to contact the church office at 725-3956 with your address and dates of your departure and return so we can update our records.

## Men's Breakfasts

The men's Bible study meets on the second and fourth Saturday of every month. We meet at 8:00 a.m. in the meeting room of Perkins Restaurant across from Wal-Mart. This month we meet on January 13 and 27. Come and join us. All men welcome.

## OSLC Mission Quilters

Come see how much fun we have! This month we meet in the church gym on:

January 4 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

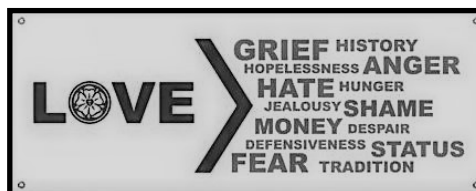
January 18 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

## Women's Book Club

The book club at OSLC welcomes you to join our friendly group of 10 to 12 women. We generally meet at 6:30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month in the church library. This month we meet on January 23. Come join us!

## LOVE>

What does it mean to "Listen deeply" to on another?



Beginning on January 7, please join us on Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15 a.m. as we begin this year's Listening Deeply series entitled LOVE>. We'll listen, learn, and explore through Bible study, videos and guest speakers. Everyone who attends in January will get a LOVE> gift, while supplies last.

### January Sessions:

—January 7 – **An Introduction to LOVE>** and what it means to listen deeply.

—January 14 – **Listening deeply to Martin Luther**, using "Here I Stand" a CD written, performed and produced by **Andrew Pokel**. Andrew and the CD were featured in the October 'Lutheran' and he was invited to perform his music in Wittenburg, Germany, in honor of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation. [www.livinglutheran.org/2017/07/hip-hop-reformer/](http://www.livinglutheran.org/2017/07/hip-hop-reformer/)

—January 21 – **Listening Deeply to Returning Veterans**. Andrew Schaller, an Our Savior's member and Oshkosh West teacher, initiated the Oshkosh West Honor Wall which was dedicated last November, on Veteran's Day. Andrew is a veteran himself and served as an infantry soldier for six years and a Chaplain's assistant for four years. [www.thenorthwestern.com/story/news/2017/11/11/](http://www.thenorthwestern.com/story/news/2017/11/11/) and <http://www.veterans-welcomed-home-honor-wall-dedication/848223001/>

—January 28 – **Listening Deeply to Voices of our Community**. Guests from our local Esther group who strive to give voice to the voiceless. <http://www.esther-foxvalley.org>

### Future sessions:

Sex trafficking in the Fox Valley, Mental Health Resources, and Addiction

## FVLH News

Thanks to the Connectors at your many congregations, we are putting together bags of goodies for our tenants to enjoy this holiday season. Thank you all so much!

Please consider joining us by serving on our Board of Directors or our Mission and Ministry Committee. Call me with any questions on the openings for these positions. Also, we again have vacancies to fill at Linwood Place. We have both one and two bedroom apartments available immediately. We'd like to build up our waiting list, so call anytime to arrange a tour, even if you are thinking your move may be a year or two away. Call Becky at 920-734-7225, or John at 920-419-5754, to set up a tour soon.

*-Becky Luett, Executive Director*

## Father Carr Coordinator Needed

We need a new coordinator for the Father Carr food program. The responsibilities include twice monthly trips to the Place 2B in Oshkosh to deliver food, mailing reminder postcards twice a month, and creating and distributing the cooking schedule to the volunteers. There are approximately 30 volunteers who cook four times a year. Contact Bill Mode (920-720-8797 or [modewc@twc.com](mailto:modewc@twc.com)) to receive more details and instructions.

## Care and Grief Note Ministry

Knowing that we are not alone can make all of the difference. OSLC staff have a wide variety of care and prayer notes and other support literature that are written to bring comfort, strength, healing and hope to those facing life challenges.

Many titles are always available in the hallway of the ministry wing. These are free for you to keep. *January's Notes* featured at the prayer table in the back of the sanctuary are:

Using Hospice Care When a Loved One is Terminally Ill by Melissa Kelly

Facing Chronic Illness with Faith and Hope by Rev. Daniel H. Grosseohme, B.C.C.

Praying for Healing for Yourself or Someone Else by Susan St. Sing

For Teens: Suicide Prevention, Getting Help Before it is Too Late

## Envelopes and Flowers

### 2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes for 2018 are available to pick up now. Do not use 2017 offering envelopes after the first of the year. *You will receive offering envelopes even though you contribute by Simply Giving; please pick them up.*

### 2018 FLOWER CHART

The 2018 flower chart is posted on the bulletin board in the office wing. **The cost of flowers will increase beginning January 1, 2018.** The center arrangement will be \$32.50; the two side arrangements will be \$37.00. When signing up, please be sure to indicate center, sides, or both on the chart. Payment and wording for the bulletin must be received by noon on the Wednesday prior to the weekend the flowers will be on the altar. Flowers will not be ordered unless payment has been received.

## LUTHER TIDBIT

**"YOU HAVE AS MUCH LAUGHTER AS YOU HAVE FAITH."**

**-MARTIN LUTHER**

And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward. ~ Matthew 10:42

## Generous People...

### Thank You

Carolers and decorators!!!!  
Thank you so much for helping make the season a little brighter for our homebound folks by caroling. It was fun to have so many participate!

Decorating the church and trees would not get done without all of the wonderful help from 18 families. Snacks were yummy, too!! The church family appreciates you!! And I do too!

-Ardy Kreuter and the Worship Team

## Generosity is...

**...NOT the result of having a lot.**

Everyone has something to give and can experience the needs of others. It's a good thing when gift and need come together. People have needs. Sometimes we can respond directly to them, but more often we need to work together to effectively connect our gifts to those in need. The church supports life needs and also faith needs. Churches are important in that they carry the faith to the next generation. Our church needs us to be generous.

## From the Pews

**One thing I learned to do when volunteering...**

...is walk in someone else's shoes. -Anon.

...remember that it's all about relationships. Getting along with others and having fun while you work and learn. -Anon.

...is to listen carefully to other's joys and problems. One also gets a lesson in patience. -Anon

...is to remember MY blessings and help others. -Dee Klein

...is that many hands working together accomplish a lot—and work becomes fun. You always make someone's day better—including your own. -Anon.

## Opportunities For Giving...

### General Fund

All undesignated envelope giving and loose contributions go to this fund. The fund supports OSLC worship services, fellowship, evangelism, congregational education, utilities, salaries and benevolence to the larger church.

## Generous Congregation...

**Unified Budget YTD**

**Through November**

**Income \$372,170.07**

**Expenses \$377,599.48**

**(\$ 5,429.41)**

## Special Offerings ...

### Noisy Coin

Hams

\$ 574.01

## Building Fund...

**Through November**

**Remaining on Loan:  
\$496,630.64**

**Principal Paid on Loan  
\$112,543.87**

**Total Contributions:  
\$ 95,300.46**