



APRIL 2024

# SHINE: SHare. INspire. Engage.

Monthly Newsletter of Our Saviour's  
Lutheran Church

## Called to Courageous Conversations

Our world is full of heartbreaking situations, areas that are more gray than black-and-white, and things we wish we could ignore, but our faith calls us into these moments to see God at work. Again and again Jesus shows up among the hungry, the naked, the jailed, the poor and the outcasts. Our Saviour's cannot keep silent when it comes to showing the world that God is at work even, and especially, in the midst of these controversial topics. We are committed to having **Courageous Conversations**.

In our Courageous Conversations series, which will kick off Wednesday, April 17, at Celebration Campus, we will hear speakers who share stories of hope and resilience in the midst of struggle. Through these conversations, we in turn might better understand how to reject injustice where we find it and to work together to envision a better future for all. These conversations are for our whole community, so families are invited to attend together. (For our youngest conversation partners, we will have simple crafts and activities related to each topic.)

Our first Courageous Conversations series will take a closer look at Our Saviour's partner [Bright Stars of Bethlehem](#) (BSB), serving students in the occupied West Bank and Gaza. Over three weeks, we'll learn more about BSB, watch Palestinian student films and explore authentic travel. Please see page 6 for more details. We look forward to seeing you for Courageous Conversations starting this month!

**Blessings,  
Pastor Ben**

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**OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

815 S. WASHINGTON / 919 S. WASHINGTON / NAPERVILLE, IL 60540

SITE: OURSAVIOURS.COM / EMAIL: INFO@OURSAVIOURS.COM / PHONE: 630-355-2522

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# Knowing Jesus, Making Jesus Known

## Someone You Should Know

**KWYNN OLSON,**  
Surge mentor and Sunday School teacher

For Kwynn Olson, helping to provide opportunities for kids to grow in their faith is important because of how formative those experiences were for him as a young person.

Kwynn, who has served as a Sunday School teacher for five years and as a Surge Confirmation mentor for the past two school years, was actively involved in youth programs at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Rockford growing up.

"I grew up in a family where church was pretty important," Kwynn says. "My grandfather was a minister in the Norwegian Lutheran Church, one of the churches that in time folded itself into the ELCA." Participating in youth choirs and other youth programs yielded invaluable friendships and "had a big impact on who I became," he reflects.

Kwynn met his wife, Kristin, while both were students at Bradley University in Peoria, and the pair moved north to the Chicago suburbs to begin their careers. Looking ahead to starting their family, they sought a church home that was comfortably large, in line with the Catholic parish in which Kristin had grown up, and that offered strong children's and youth programs. When they found Our Saviour's in Naperville, "kids seemed to want to be at church," Kwynn says. "The church really seemed to be trying to build a foundation for them."

Kwynn and Kristin married at OSLC in 2008. Kwynn now is social studies department chair at Bolingbrook High School, and Kristin, a marketing graduate, works for Enterprise Rent-a-Car. They live in Montgomery and have two children, Henry (12) and Eleanor (9).

Kwynn first signed on as a Sunday School teacher when Henry was starting grade school. When Henry started middle school, Kwynn started serving as a Surge mentor. **(Continued on p. 3)**



**"If I'm going to expect other people to help, then I need to be willing also to help," Olson says.**

(Continued from p. 2) “I try to help out in my kids’ schools and in their other activities,” Kwynn says. “I guess I have generally an attitude that if I’m going to expect other people to help, then I need to be willing also to help. If I want my kids to have nice things, nice opportunities, I can’t expect other people to provide them.”

Serving as a Sunday School teacher and Surge mentor has been rewarding and encouraging, says Kwynn. Both everyday moments in Surge and special trips, like youth retreats, offer meaningful experiences for students and lessons for mentors, he suggests. “We often times find ourselves dividing into groups, dividing into factions, but to be able to go to a place where none of that really matters and everyone is able to drop their guard a little bit, I think that’s really great,” he says.

In Our Saviour’s, he says, “I feel blessed to find a spiritual home for my family and for my kids.” Kwynn takes the long view, as well: “Making sure there are opportunities for kids to grow is important for my own children, and I think it’s important for the church,” he says. **Interested in serving in Youth & Family Ministries at OSLC? Contact Pastor Ben at [pastorben@oursaviours.com](mailto:pastorben@oursaviours.com).**



## Welcome, new members!

Please join us in welcoming the O'Tooles!

Katee and Jon O'Toole live in Naperville with daughter Ell (9) and son Leighton (6) as well as two "wonderfully loud-snoring" pugs, Oswin and Rosie. They started attending Our Saviour's in December after feeling called to continue their family's faith journey with a new faith community. Our Saviour's "offers a welcoming space for Ell and Leighton to nurture their connection with Jesus and grow spiritually," says Katee, and she and Jon have been "particularly drawn to the inclusive environment and the compassionate pastoral team."

"Outside of church, we enjoy playing board games," shares Katee. "Leighton is passionate about anything related to Legos, action figures and stuffed animals. Ell loves swimming, math and lending a helping hand. Katee dedicates some of her free time to pursuing her master's at Northern Seminary, and she enjoys mysteries, movies and dominating Uno. Jon's interests include films, music & playing video games with the kids."

# Knowing Jesus, Making Jesus Known

## OSLC Library Corner: Earth Month

*“Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts. There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature - the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter.” -Rachel Carson, “Silent Spring”*

April is Earth Month - the perfect time to check out a variety of nature- and environment-oriented reads available at the [OSLC library](#), including Rachel Carson’s widely influential “Silent Spring.”

For younger readers, contemplate God’s great creation with titles such as “Owl Moon,” “Backyard” (from the One Small Square series) and “The Berenstain Bears: All Things Bright and Beautiful.” You’ll also find reads that tie into April’s Sunday School theme, “Patience.”

Looking for the latest reads in your favorite series? You can find offerings by such authors as Jocelyn Green and Lauraine Snelling grouped together. To find out if a particular item is available, check the [online catalog](#). Happy reading!



## April Celebrations

### Birthdays (80+):

Rich Broll  
Don Coers  
Bonnie Haas  
Ruth Hezinger  
Wally Hild  
Milan Huba  
Bob Lacher  
Carol Lynch  
Merle Malmquist  
Carl Neumann  
Dick Rogers  
Sue Schneider  
Marge Stephens  
Judy Swanson  
Leonard Wik

### OSLC anniversaries

#### (40+ years):

John Audlee  
Rita Audlee  
Ruth Heidorn  
Dale Bakken  
Eleanor Meister  
Carolyn Rott  
Michael Karkhoff  
Jason Kudelka  
Susan Krass

### Baptisms

John M. Barich (March 9)

*Blessings to you on your special day!*

# OSLC in Action

Feed the Need @ Benedictine U. March 2-3! Our Saviour's had nearly 200 volunteers who helped the event pack more than 800,000 meals for Feed My Starving Children.



# Teen Talk with Pastor Ben

## If Easter is about Jesus' rising from the dead, why do we hide eggs?

Each week, my work as associate pastor for youth & family ministry gives me opportunities to connect with the youths of Our Saviour's and catch a glimpse of these amazing young people's faith. Here, high school Ignition students share their perspectives on our question of the month!



**John Norweathers:** I think that when Jesus was crucified and placed in the tomb, before he was risen from the dead, he was put away like candy being put into an egg. When someone takes something out of the egg, it symbolizes Jesus breaking out of death or rising up.

**Emma Doyle:** It's because you hide your alleluias during Lent, and then on Easter you find them again, like finding an egg!

**Berit Mores:** I think we hide eggs during Easter because the candy represents Jesus, who is risen out of the tomb, and the egg is the tomb.



**Eileen Schuler:** It's supposed to symbolize Jesus rising from the dead, and when you open the egg, there is a surprise, and you are searching for that.

# Coming Soon at OSLC



## April events with our mission partners

April offers abundant opportunities to engage with some of Our Saviour's globally focused mission partners.

On Saturday, April 13, **Mozambique Ministry** will host a Food Safari & Drumming Experience dinner starting at 6 p.m. at Celebration. The evening will feature live music & a silent auction. Tickets are \$60; purchase at church or [HERE](#).

For three weeks starting Wednesday, April 17, join us for dinner and Courageous Conversations with **Bright Stars of Bethlehem** (pictured w/Pastor Ben). 5:30-7 p.m. April 17, April 24, & May 1, Celebration.

On Saturday, April 27, **Slovakia Ministry** will welcome our friends Bohdan & Adrian from the Center for Christian Education in Martin for the 2024 Slovakia Dinner. 6 p.m., Celebration; purchase tickets (\$50/person, \$100/family) at church or [HERE](#).

## Save the Dates for Special Services!



Sunday, April 7:

One service  
10 a.m.

Celebration Campus

Join us for **JOYFUL NOISE SUNDAY!**

*Lutheran Church*  
**OUR SAVIOURS**

All-church Annual Meeting

Sunday, June 2

following ONE service @ 9 a.m.

Our Saviour's Campus

*See you there!*



Sunday, July 21:

Worship with  
**St. Timothy Lutheran**

NAPERVILLE COMMUNITY CONCERT  
CENTER (BANDSHELL)

*Join us as we celebrate one worship service  
with our friends at St. Tim's!*