



NOVEMBER 2025

SHINE: SHare. INspire. Engage.

Monthly Newsletter of
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

Gathered Up

As we get closer to the end of 2025, it is easy to feel overwhelmed. There is so much happening in our world and so much that demands our attention, and almost too many crises to count.

Just looking across missions and ministries of our own church, we see groups like Bright Stars of Bethlehem working to provide education in the midst of a genocide in Gaza, Haiti Scholars finding ways to run a school during political chaos, Refugee Ministry finding ways to advocate for the strangers in our land while our own government does everything in its power to keep people away. Caring for Creation is hard at work helping us at OSLC reduce our environmental impact while our planet continues to break records for hottest average temperature and amount of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere. Just Love, along with our RIC team, helps us continue to welcome the LGBTQIA+ community in a time when their rights and legal protections are under daily threat. And while all of this is going on, we have record numbers of individuals in need of food and financial assistance at places like Loaves and Fishes, and ICE is showing up in our neighborhoods, kidnapping and harassing our neighbors.

It's all too easy to feel exhausted and overwhelmed by the state of the world, but I noticed something at the "No Kings" rally in downtown Naperville last month. Gathered there with a huge mass of people, I saw signs for all sorts of causes and concerns. I saw people who were crying for Gaza, people who were worried about their Latino and Hispanic neighbors, LGBTQIA+ rights advocates, and people who were just worried about the future of democracy in our country. But with all those thousands of folks gathered into one place, it didn't feel like we were 100 different groups (**continued on p. 2**)

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Knowing Jesus, Making Jesus Known

(continued from p. 1) advocating for 100 different things. The reality is we're all fighting for the same thing: justice.

Justice doesn't limit itself to one kind of people or one corner of the world. It's not tied to one political party or one moment in time. Justice is what pulls at our hearts. It's the thing that burns inside of us and sends us out into the world to change the things we cannot accept. The hunger for justice unites all of us. It connects our missions and passions to the needs of the world.

Our Saviour's is a church that does so much in our world and in our community, but each and every mission and ministry traces its way back to our baptism, where God names us and calls us beloved, and we promise to work for Justice and Peace.

**Blessings,
Pastor Ben**



Knowing Jesus, Making Jesus Known

In Focus: Why Do We Sing That in Worship?

Have you ever wondered about the different musical elements of worship at the Our Saviour's Campus-- say, what the Canticle of Praise is all about, or when and why the Kyrie rotates?

In a recent conversation, Nicholas Davis, who serves as worship director for our 9 and 11 a.m. worship services as well as director of the Sanctuary Choir and the Women's Chorale, shared what goes into his worship-music planning and why we sing what we sing.

We talk about the "liturgy" and different liturgical seasons of the year--what is the liturgy, exactly? What does it comprise?



ND: The liturgy is basically the parts of the service historically called the Mass, but in the Lutheran church we call it the Divine Service of Holy Communion. The Lutheran service as we know it, the structure, came about in 1888, when lots of different Lutheran churches got together and created what then was called the Common Service. It has pretty much stayed the same since then. We start with a Kyrie, which is a prayer for mercy.

It's followed by the Gloria or the Canticle of Praise, which contains the words sung by the angels to the shepherds that we would find in Luke. In our church, as in many churches, we won't sing a Gloria, we'll sing "This is the Feast." Then we have the lessons, the first reading. In response to the lessons, we sing the Alleluia-- literally a response of joy to hearing God's words and preparing to hear the Gospel.

Later in the service, when we get to the communion liturgy, we have a call-and-response preface called the Great Thanksgiving (*The Lord be with you.* "And also with you..."). Our sung response to that, the "Holy, Holy, Holy," is preparing us for the highest point of the service. Sometimes I'll actually play that part of the service much louder, and there's a reason for that: That comes right before the words of institution, where we hear that we are about to partake in the body and blood of Jesus. Those are words that come directly from Isaiah and Matthew, when we say "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord." Then before communion we'll sing the Agnus Dei, a song of praise where we're remembering that Jesus is the lamb of God and is present when we're taking communion. Those are the liturgical parts that we use normally in our services. (continued on p. 4)

Knowing Jesus, Making Jesus Known

In Focus: Why Do We Sing That in Worship?

When and why do some musical elements of the liturgy change?

It really changes I guess with the season. For example, the first Sunday of Advent we'll be changing to a different setting of the service. That comes about through discussion with the worship planning team--what is our focus for that season? I try to switch between a traditional ELW setting and maybe something from our other resources in the Lutheran church; I try to give a variance to what we do.

Besides the liturgy, you're also selecting our gathering song, hymn of the day and sending song, which do change each week. How do you choose those?

Every song I pick, every liturgy I choose, I choose so very intentionally because I want to make sure it matches what's being done that Sunday, and also, is it going to be effective when people hear it or sing it?

In addition to selecting from the ELW, I'll use things from Hymnal Supplement 1991; we have a hymnal called "This Far by Faith"; and then I'll actually pull from other denominations that might have songs that are very fitting that we don't have in any of our books.

I do a lot of prayer and discernment in picking not just parts of the service itself but my prelude and my postlude. Every piece of music that I am tasked with selecting takes prayer and discernment in that moment.

What do you love most about your job, and how does it challenge you?

I love music; I love being a Lutheran; I love the church, and I get to have the opportunity to play the organ every Sunday and play the piano or lead a choir or help lead a congregation in song, all while trying to make the world a better place. I think the challenging part is holding on to traditional Lutheran service ideas and hymns but also moving forward as the church and the world changes and tying those together. Because change is hard, but sometimes we have to do uncomfortable things. From a personal standpoint, I'm a traditionalist, so sometimes it's even hard for me to try to bring in something different, like a more praise-style song, but when we do it differently and it has an effect, that's pretty cool. It's about helping people understand that it's OK every now and then to do something a little different.

My favorite thing about what I do is that I get to do a job that I truly love.

Thriving with OSLC: Financial Wellness

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.”

-Ecclesiastes 3:1

Life is full of transitions—new jobs, growing families, caring for aging parents, moving, entering retirement. Each of these brings not only emotional and (often) spiritual shifts but also financial ones. Ecclesiastes reminds us that there is a season for everything under heaven. That includes a time to save and a time to spend, a time to plan and a time to trust, a time to tighten and a time to give.

Financial wellness is about learning to move gracefully through these transitions. It's not about how much we have, but how we manage and make meaning of what we have in each season.

As a social worker and therapist, I've seen that financial peace often begins when we stop resisting change and start embracing it as part of life's rhythm.

Transitions, whether joyful or difficult, can become opportunities for growth, gratitude and deeper trust in God's provision.

How to Live Faithfully Through Financial Transitions:

- **Recognize your current season.** Every stage of life brings new financial realities. Awareness allows us to respond, not react.
- **Hold money with open hands.** Our finances shift as our circumstances do. Flexibility and faith help us adapt with grace.
- **Seek support and wisdom.** Trusted counselors, church leaders, and financial coaches can offer guidance when change feels overwhelming.



Alexandra Colaianni, OSLC wellness manager.

Financial wellness isn't about perfection—it's about peace. It's about trusting that in every transition, God remains steady. Our faith helps us see money not as a source of anxiety but as one of many tools through which God's care and community are revealed. (continued on p. 6)

Thriving with OSLC: Financial Wellness

(continued from p. 5)

Need a listening ear?

OSLC is here to walk alongside you. Reach out to the church office to schedule a confidential conversation with me or one of our pastors.

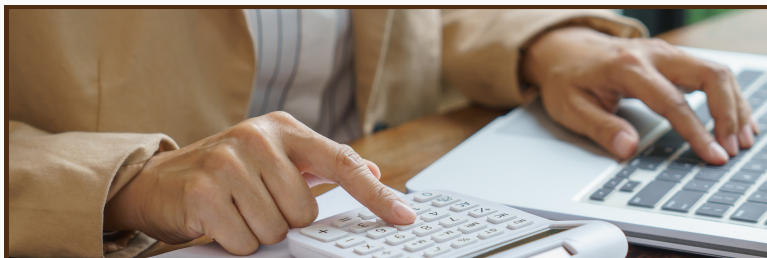
Closing prayer:

Faithful God, You guide us through every transition—through seasons of abundance and seasons of need. When change unsettles us, steady our hearts. Teach us to manage our resources wisely, to live generously, and to trust Your constant care. May our finances reflect Your faithfulness, and may each new season draw us closer to You. Amen.

Financial wellness resources:

- Illinois Financial Wellness Hub – Free online tools, budgeting help and a personalized financial checkup: illinoistreasurer.gov/Financial_Education
- Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Northern Illinois – Nonprofit support for budgeting, debt management, and credit repair: 815-338-5757, illinoiscccs.org
- Ladder Up (Chicago area) – Free financial literacy classes and tax preparation assistance: 312-409-1555, goladderup.org
- Thrivent- Originally founded as [Thrivent Financial for Lutherans](#), it has now serves all Christians and operates on a principle of financial guidance that enables a life of purpose, generosity and gratitude. Check out free financial articles such as “[Balancing Today’s Priorities with Tomorrow’s goals](#),” “[Blended Family Finances: Tips for Financial Harmony](#)” and “[How to Manage Money as a Caregiver](#).” 800-847-4836, thrivent.com.

Congregational wellness manager Alexandra Colaianni is a licensed clinical social worker and the founder of Modern Balance Integrative Therapy in Naperville. At OSLC, she leads special programs around mental, physical and community wellness.



In Photos: A Connection-Filled October

October kicked off with our annual pet blessing - a celebration of God's good creation and a reminder of how we are called to be stewards of all living things. The following weekend, Our Saviour's jr- and sr-high youths headed to Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center in Oregon, IL, for their fall retreat! We also celebrated our first-ever Trivia Night, hosted by OSLC's stewardship committee, and first Chili Cook-Off for Children, Youth & Family Ministries!



Knowing Jesus, Making Jesus Known

OSLC Library Corner



*We give thanks this November for the
Our Saviour's Library!*

Special observances in November include Native American Heritage Month, National Family Caregivers Month, Diabetes Awareness Month and Epilepsy Awareness Month. Explore a range of topics related to history & culture, health & wellness and more--plus, find a variety of reads on Veterans Day and Thanksgiving--in the Our Saviour's Library! Looking for a specific title? Search the library's digital card catalog at 17036.rmwebopac.com/.

Nov. Celebrations

Birthdays (80+)

Jerry Gieraltowski
Eleanor Meister
Don Peters
Shirley Peters
Arnold Seaberg
Karen Wills

Church Anniversaries

Shari Kragh
Bob Lacher
Rod & Betty Landorf
Bill & Barbara Lymangood
Marc Nelson
Barbara Procida

*Blessings to you
on your special
day!*

Baptism

Oliver Miles Musial,
10/26/25

Knowing Jesus, Making Jesus Known

Welcome, New Members!



Brooke Friesner and Daniel Rotta Jr. joined Our Saviour's in October and are looking forward to getting married in the church in 2026! Writes Brooke: "We are so excited to be here! Daniel and I met in 2019 and were together long-distance until 2022, when we officially came to the area. As we finally begin to feel settled in the Naperville area, we feel it's time to re-establish a church community. We got engaged in March and look forward to becoming newlyweds here at Our Saviour's in 2026! At home, we have our two pups - Daisy Mae & Remington James, both Labs. We try our best to keep things interesting outside of our careers--my hobbies include slow-pitch softball, photography and home DIY projects; Daniel's include working on cars, MMA and sand volleyball. We are very appreciative to be accepted!" Welcome, Brooke & Daniel!

Sarah Griesse and Mary Ann Ryan moved from Minnesota to Naperville two years ago and began attending Our Saviour's this summer. Sarah write: "After visiting different churches in the area, we felt most at home at Our Saviour's. We've been attending the Saturday 5 p.m. service since August. Sarah's father was a Lutheran pastor in New England. As a Catholic, Mary Ann enjoys the welcoming and inclusive nature of the Lutheran Church. Our dogs Spunky (a Pomeranian) and Sebastian (a Havanese) keep us busy. We love spending time with family and friends and watching women's sports. We look forward to continuing to meet people in the congregation." Welcome, Sarah and Mary Ann!

Kevin Andrews returns to Naperville and comes to Our Saviour's by way of Miami, where he lived for 26 years. He recently retired from leadership roles with mental-health and substance-recovery organizations in Miami. Kevin and his mother, who passed away suddenly six months after his return to Naperville, had longtime roots at St. Paul Lutheran in Aurora. Writes Kevin: "I attended for the first time this summer, and after my first visit, I felt like I was home. Every sermon has touched my soul. I serve as board chairman of NAMI Miami; I also exercise daily and am a huge Cubs, Bulls and Bears fan." Welcome back to Naperville and welcome to OSLC, Kevin!



Caring for Creation

Cleaning up fall leaves keeps our neighborhood neat, prevents flooding, and even helps protect stormwater ponds and local streams. Follow these tips for a tidy yard this fall:

- **Mark your calendar for community leaf pickup days.** Participating in curbside leaf collection is an easy way to take care of leaves on your property.
- **Make cleanup easier by mowing leaves into your lawn.** Try mulching leaves into your lawn with a mower to tackle leaves even faster. A mulching mower works best, but you can also try a normal mower at the highest blade setting. Mulching the leaves breaks them into small pieces that will fertilize your lawn as they decompose.
- **Use leaves as a resource.** In addition to mulching leaves with a mower to fertilize your grass, you can also add mulched leaves to landscaping or compost leaves along with other yard waste and food scraps.
- **Keep leaves out of streets and storm drains.** Leaves in the streets make flooding more likely. Leaves tend to collect in storm drains and block stormwater from exiting the street. A moderate or heavy rainfall can cause a backup of water when storm drains are not clear. To avoid flooding in our neighborhood, rake up leaves and sweep leaves off the street and storm drain, especially before forecasted rainfall.
- **Never blow or dump leaves into natural areas and common spaces.** Dumping leaves in stormwater ponds, streams or natural areas harms water quality and wildlife. Leaves are nutrient-rich and feed algae that form an unattractive green layer on our neighborhood ponds.

Thanks for following these tips for healthy yards, common areas and ponds!



Coming Soon at OSLC

Season of Sharing 2025

- Through Nov. 16: TP drive for **Loaves & Fishes**
- Through Nov. 24: pie orders for **Mozambique Mission**
- Nov. 15-30: Giving Trees gift-card drive for **Bridge Communities, Holy Family Ministries, Good Samaritan Fund, LSSI & Refugee Ministry**; book drive for **HFM**
- Nov. 22-23: \$10 donation drive for **Haiti Scholars**

Season of Sharing 2025

It may seem like summer ended just a few weeks ago, but the holiday season indeed is here. This year, several of our mission partners anticipate increased need for their services as families grapple with heightened financial uncertainty and food insecurity.

You can help our neighbors in need by participating in our annual **Season of Sharing**. This month and next, you are invited to support our locally and globally serving mission partners through the avenues listed above. Perhaps you can drop off a bulk package of toilet paper for **Loaves & Fishes**. Maybe you'd like a homemade pie that supports **Mozambique Mission** for your Thanksgiving table rather than a store-bought one. Maybe you can pick up an extra gift card for our friends at **Bridge Communities, Holy Family Ministries, LSSI and World Relief Chicagoland (Refugee Ministry)** or donate the \$10 in your wallet to **Haiti Scholars** in our Nov. 22-23 donation drive. However you feel called to help, know that you are helping to meet critical needs of fellow children of God both near and far. Thank you for your support!

Save the Date for Special Happenings:

Thanksgiving Eve worship

Nov. 26, 7 p.m.

Our Saviour's Sanctuary



Common Ground monthly prayer service

First Wednesday of the month,
5:15-6P, Sanctuary.
Next service: Dec. 3.

Come for prayer, reflection & connection as we explore different dimensions of wellness.

Longest Night service

Dec. 20, 5 p.m.

Sanctuary