



SEPTEMBER 2025

SHINE: SHare. INspire. Engage.

Monthly Newsletter of
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

Not Just a Pretty Floor

If you've stepped foot on the Our Saviour's campus lately, you've no doubt noticed the end results of our recent refresh project. Virtually every floor on the main level at 815 S. Washington has been completely replaced or refurbished, and it is amazing to see how changing out flooring can change the entire feel of a building. Making our building look better, though, wasn't the only goal of this refresh - in fact, it wasn't even the primary goal!

When you enter the Our Saviour's Campus, one of the things you may notice is that there are more open spaces. We have larger walkways, smoother transitions between flooring types and entryways, and a large open space at the back of our sanctuary. All of these changes help make our spaces more accessible to folks using walkers or pushing strollers and to wheelchair users or those who are less steady on their feet. The very reason the church has a building is so that everyone can gather and be welcomed - so that we can worship together, pray together, eat together and do life together.

One of my favorite stories in the Bible comes from the book of Luke: Some friends were trying to take their paralyzed friend to see Jesus, but the house where Jesus was teaching was so full of people that they couldn't make their way through. Instead of giving up, these friends climbed onto the roof, made a hole in the building and lowered their friend down on a bed right in front of Jesus. These friends refused to let a building keep anyone away from Jesus.

Our property committee may not be cutting any holes in the roof anytime soon, but our goal is clear. We are called to create spaces where all are welcome and to think creatively and collaboratively about how to include the beautiful diversity (**continued on p. 2**)

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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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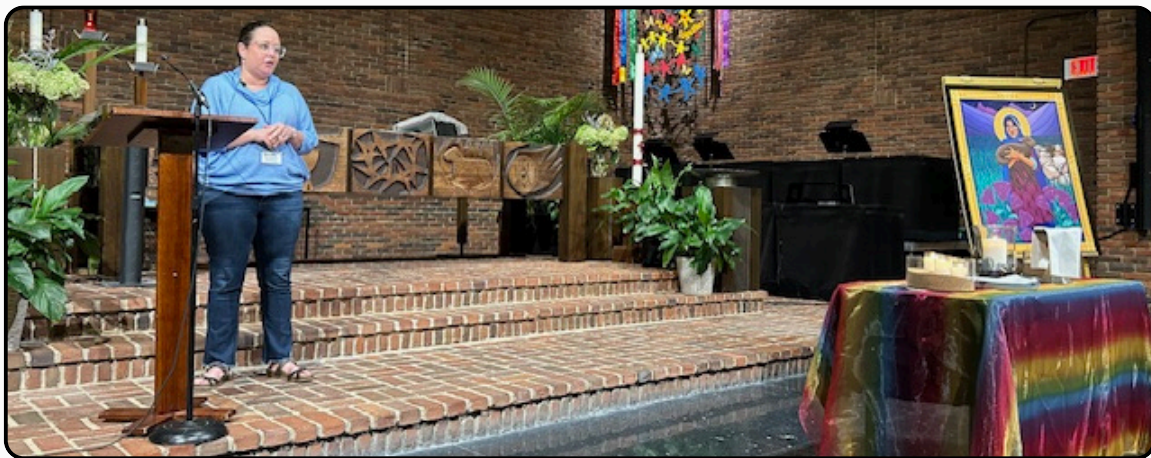
Knowing Jesus, Making Jesus Known

(continued from p. 1) of all God's people into our worship and life together.

Our work here isn't done! We're still in the process of creating sensory spaces at each of our campuses that will provide quiet spaces for folks who may feel overwhelmed by the sights and sounds of worship in a large sanctuary or gym. We're continuing to enhance our livestream abilities to help people stay connected to worship when they can't be present in person and give prospective members a way to see what a worship service at Our Saviour's is like before they even walk in the front doors.

I hope that each time you step into the Our Saviour's Campus, you see more than just a pleasing color palette and high-quality carpet, tile and stone. I hope that you see another small way our community is working to be more open and to remove barriers and welcome all.

Blessings,
Pastor Ben



Knowing Jesus, Making Jesus Known

Someone You Should Know: Kristyn Reed

by Teresa Thompson

For Celebration worship band member Kristyn Reed, a kindergarten teacher at Scott School in Naperville, the journey to Our Saviour's Lutheran Church started on a school bus.

Kristyn was on a field trip with students, sitting on the bus with a teacher friend and chatting about churches. Kristyn had grown up in a Methodist congregation in Schaumburg and was looking for a new church closer to her new home. One of the parent chaperones on the trip, former OSLC pastor Mark Borgetti, happened to overhear and invited Kristyn to try his church.

After one visit, "that was it," Kristyn recalls. The worship band's performance instantly resonated with Kristyn, who had previously sung in a band with her father, and she replied to that morning's open call for new folks to join the band.

Singing with the band "was a natural transition and a great way to be involved in the church right away," Kristyn says. "The band members) were so supportive."

Today, some two decades after taking the leap and getting involved in a music ensemble at a new-to-her church, Kristyn is grateful to continue to serve in worship with the band--and now to have her son Cal, a drummer, sometimes joining her on stage.

"Now it's Cal's turn to experience the joys of being part of a group, contributing to worship and serving others," she says.

Being part of OSLC has been formative, too, for Kristyn's 18-year-old daughter Avery. Having been part of Our Saviour's Ignition high school ministry and participated in mission trips, Avery signed on earlier this year to complete a year of service with AmeriCorps (continued on p. 4).



Worship band singer Kristyn Reed, with her son Cal, a drummer.

Knowing Jesus, Making Jesus Known

Someone You Should Know



Kristyn, fourth from right, says she's grateful for the unexpected invitation to OSLC while on a field trip.

"A year of service will be a wonderful opportunity to continue being involved in other communities and serving their needs," Kristyn says. "It will be a great way for Avery to know herself more and what she'd like to pursue for a career."

Kristyn shares gratitude for former Pastor Mark's invitation to Our Saviour's on that school bus ride 20 years ago. Something as simple as turning around and extending a kind

word and a welcome can have life-changing implications for the person who receives it, Kristyn notes. And at Our Saviour's, friends and neighbors find a welcoming community with leaders like Chris Brown, she adds, who will find a way for new folks to participate in whatever they'd like to get involved in as we all work to do "Life Together."

Want to be part of worship band? Email Chris Brown at chrisbrown@oursaviours.com.

God's Work, Our Hands Sept. 13-14

We will mark **God's Work, Our Hands Sunday**, an annual observance of the ELCA, the weekend of Sept. 13-14 at all services. During worship, we will assemble care kits for **Bringing Joy**, a local not-for-profit that supplies care packages for cancer patients. On Sunday, Sept. 14, **Baby Care** kit assembly will take place in Nelson-Niemi Fellowship Hall before and after worship, with completed infant-care kits going to **Lutheran World Relief**.



Thriving with OSLC: Emotional Wellness

Life is hard. Jesus calls us to live life together for this very reason.

Jesus saw and sought out the overlooked and the overwhelmed, loving them, healing them, reminding them that they mattered. And we find in the stories of Jesus' ministry and those he ministered to the affirmation that connection gives us strength. Life is unpredictable, but we aren't meant to go through it by ourselves.

Emotional wellness is about understanding, experiencing and managing emotions in a healthy way. It incorporates self-awareness, being able to express emotions to others in a balanced way, resilience and adaptability.

Nurturing emotional wellness involves building healthy support systems, and we have the opportunity to do this in a faith context at OSLC. As Christians, we are called to be people who listen without judgment, uplift our community members and remind our neighbors of their worth when they question it.

You may say, "That all sounds great, but how do you build healthy support systems?" Here are four principles to start with:

- **Be intentional.** Seek out opportunities to connect, whether through community groups, volunteering, or shared hobbies.
- **Choose connections who lift you.** Surround yourself with people who respect your boundaries, values and personal growth.
- **Stay connected.** Regular check-ins over coffee, by phone or during a walk can help keep connections strong.
- **Give as well as receive.** True support is mutual. Offer your time, a listening ear and encouragement in return.



OSLC congregational wellness manager Alexandra Colaianni, LCSW.

A healthy support system won't erase life's challenges, even with OSLC. However, it can make them more bearable. Health Christ-centered support offers perspective, comfort, and hope when we feel overwhelmed. Likewise, being part of someone else's support network lets us positively impact their faith journey.

If you feel isolated, you are not alone. We encourage you take a small step toward connection within Our Saviour's by reaching **(continued on p. 6)**

Thriving with OSLC: Emotional Wellness

(continued from p.5) out to a pastor, joining a small group or introducing yourself to someone new to our community. The faith-filled relationships you nurture today may be the lifelines you need tomorrow.

OSLC resources to help strengthen your emotional wellness:

- Our **Common Ground** monthly prayer service, which is designed to hold space for healing. Join us in the Sanctuary the first Wednesday of every month at 5 p.m. (See below.)
- Small groups such as **The Well**, which meets on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., the **Moms in Faith** group, which meets Thursday mornings from 9-11 at the Our Saviour's Campus, and **Bible Journaling**, which will meet Oct. 20 at 3 p.m. in the Bonhoeffer Room on the Our Saviour's Campus.
- Movement-based social groups such as **Cycling & Movement Connections**, which meets Saturday mornings, and **pickleball**, which meets at different times throughout the week at Celebration Campus.
- I'm available, too! Schedule a **walk-and-talk** or other 1:1 time with me!

Congregational wellness manager Alexandra Colaianni is a licensed clinical social worker and the founder of Modern Balance Integrative Therapy in Naperville. In her new role at Our Saviour's, she develops and leads special programs and activities around mental, physical and community wellness.



Common Ground monthly prayer service

First Wednesday of the month,
5-6P, Sanctuary. Next service:
Oct. 1.

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

In Photos: Back to School at Celebration!

Celebration Children's Center kicked off its 21st year of early childhood education with special back-to-school events in August! At Meet the Teacher, students visited their classrooms; parents had the chance to meet staff; and everyone enjoyed doughnuts from The Little Red Donut Truck! The first day of school was Sept. 2 ~ have a great year, Celebration students & teachers!



Knowing Jesus, Making Jesus Known

OSLC Library Corner



We're back in business! The library has reopened following the installation of new flooring, and things are looking extra-fresh this fall! Stop by for harvest-themed reads for kids, classic reads from the likes of C.S. Lewis and Henri J.M. Nouwen, and acclaimed releases from contemporary favorites such as Dolen Perkins-Valdez and Barbara Brown Taylor.

Looking for a specific title? Check its availability by searching our digital card catalog at 17036.rmwebopac.com/!

Baptisms

Harper Alexandra Haze (8/16/25)
Lucy Carolyn Morrison (8/17/25)
Bodhi James Beirne (8/24/25)

Sept. Celebrations

Birthdays (80+)

Peggy Carlson
Ruth Heidorn
David Huenecke
Lu Koerper
Jean Rich
Wilma Roose
Randy Schneider
Judi Schultz
Rich Yndestad

Church Member

Anniversaries (45+ years)

Becky Billenstein
Jennifer Cobb
Andrea Field
Sandy Golminas
John McCollum
Kate Mosher
Wanda Rehak-Cowin
Ashley Rutcosky
Kathleen Ryan
Eudean Sovereign

*Blessings to you on
your special day!*

Caring for Creation

Did you know that Addison-based [SCARCE](https://scarce.org) collects unused/like-new school and office supplies and offers them at a low cost to teachers, not-for-profit organizations (including churches) and humanitarian groups? For just \$10, teachers and not-for-profit workers can fill a box with supplies ranging from glue sticks to textbooks. Unused supplies find a home, and teachers spend less out of pocket for needed materials for their classrooms!

If you have any of the following supplies in new or unused, like-new condition, consider donating them to SCARCE, 800 S. Rohlwing Road, Unit D, Addison during regular donation hours of 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday through Friday or 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Saturday.

- Pens, pencils, markers
- Scissors
- Glue, glue sticks
- Tape, tape dispensers
- Notebooks - unused or like-new
- Folders - unused/like-new (all kinds)
- Art supplies - like-new only
- Staplers/staples
- Paper clips, binder clips, push-pins
- Poster board - unused
- Paper - unused, all kinds
- Calculators (no adding machines)
- Chalk
- Rulers and protractors
- Crayons (new, used, broken)
- New stickers & labels - sheets or rolls
- Pencil sharpeners
- Unused envelopes



For more information, visit scarce.org/accepted-items/

If you are a teacher or not-for-profit employee interested in shopping the resource center, which has textbooks, reading books, science equipment, musical instruments and more in addition to school supplies, visit scarce.org/reuse-center/who-can-get-books-supplies/ for information on requirements and what to bring.

**Find the latest from Caring for Creation at
oursaviours.com/ministries/caring-for-creation!**

Knowing Jesus, Making Jesus Known

Midweek Meetups and Thursday Kids Club!

Our Wednesday Midweek Meetups offer a unique opportunity for connection and spiritual growth for all ages. Make plans to join us this year as we lean into *Life Together!*

Our new year of Midweek Meetups is up and running on Wednesday evenings at the **Our Saviour's Campus!** Join us each Wednesday starting at 6 p.m. for a time to break bread together, to serve and to build meaningful community. **Whether you are a child, a youth or an adult at any stage of life, there's a place for you at Midweek Meetups.** We encourage everyone to come and be part of Life Together!

Schedule for Midweek Meetups:

5:30-6 p.m.: Kitchen and Nelson-Niemi Fellowship Hall open for dinner prep

6-6:30 Community meal in Nelson-Niemi Fellowship Hall; play space open for kids on kitchen side of Fellowship Hall

6:30-7:30 Children's Choir rehearsal; small groups including The Well, Brewed Theology Men's Group, LIFT and more meet

6:30-7:45 Surge Confirmation

6:30-8:15 Childcare in nursery for ages 0-5 (pre-registration requested)

6:45-8:15 Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

Also, NEW this year: Thursday Kids Club at Celebration Campus from 4-6 p.m. Join us on Thursdays as your schedule allows!



Coming Soon at OSLC



Be part of Bright Stars of Bethlehem's Hope Abounds Gala

OSLC mission partner Bright Stars of Bethlehem is hosting its annual gala on Saturday, Sept. 13, and you're invited to attend an official watch party for the event that evening in Nelson-Niemi Fellowship Hall.

Come at 6:30 p.m. for appetizers and beverages; the live program will begin at 7. Featured speakers this year are Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb, Bright Stars of Bethlehem's founder and the president of Dar al-Kalima University in Palestine, and renowned travel expert, author and PBS host Rick Steves.

Dar al-Kalima University students also will share stories about life in Palestine today and the impacts that their studies have had on their lives.

The gala is free to attend, but please RSVP to Pastor Ben at pastorben@oursaviours.com if you can by Sept. 10!

Save the Date for Special Happenings:



Join RIC in Action at Naper Pride Fest at Naper Settlement Sept. 13!

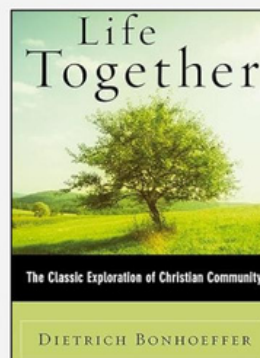
Stop by Our Saviour's table from 12-7 p.m. to say hi, and be sure to wear your OSLC swag!



"Christ has no body now but yours.
No hands, no feet on earth but yours."
-St. Teresa of Avila

Sept. 13-14, supporting Baby Care & Bringing Joy

See items needed:



Dialogues in Faith

discusses Dietrich Bonhoeffer's "Life Together"

WHEN: Sundays, Sept. 21 & 28, 10:15 a.m.

WHERE: Luther Court, Our Saviour's Campus