

Weekly Connections

Jan. 23, 2026

This weekend's Gospel reading:
Matthew 4:12-23

[View the church calendar](#)

An excerpt from Pastor Elisabeth's sermon this past weekend on the Gospel of [John 1:29-42](#).

"Jesus says, come and see. And seeing is never the end of the story. Everyone who truly sees Jesus begins to move: toward hope, toward change, toward action. Seeing turns into relationship, and relationship turns into responsibility for self and for others, and is lived out by loving and serving our neighbors."



She later went on to say, "Come and see' becomes: Come and listen to a story that challenges your own. Come and notice where suffering is being normalized. Come and stay when it would be easier to leave. And because Jesus does not invite us to do this alone, discipleship spreads through relationship, not pressure. Which means our practices of justice look less like heroic acts and more like shared ones: showing up together, learning together, telling the truth together, refusing to let one another grow numb. Some of these practices are quiet. Some are public. Some are as simple—and as hard—as asking, who is my neighbor?"



News and Notes

The National Day of Racial Healing, which Our Saviour's was honored to host at Celebration Campus, and available for viewing [here](#), was an opportunity for the ELCA to gather and listen. We heard sacred stories of pain, resilience, faith, and hope from people of different ethnic backgrounds whose lived experiences within the church matter. As a predominantly white church, this was not a moment for the ELCA to react or explain,

but to pause, pray, and recommit ourselves to listening deeply, returning to the table, and doing the ongoing work of becoming a church shaped more fully by Christ's love, justice, and truth.



Day of Joy and Justice: Celebrating MLK Jr.



*"You only need a heart full of grace.
A soul generated by love." — Dr.
Martin Luther King Jr.*

On Monday, our community put that love into action. We began in worship, grounding ourselves in God's presence, because serving

flows best when it starts with prayer and grace.

Rice Krispie Treats were decorated and delivered to our members who worship with us from home, as well as Tabor Hills residents. Handmade Valentine's Day cards were created, reminding those receiving pastoral care that they are seen and loved.

Care showed up everywhere, from sparkling sanctuary windows to cozy blankets made for [Camden's Comfort](#), wrapping NICU babies and their families in warmth when it matters most.

Our Little Free Pantry also got some love. Donations were sorted and organized, including sixty cans of protein that were shared with Loaves & Fishes.

Thank you to everyone who answered the call. This is love in action—this is OSLC doing Life Together!

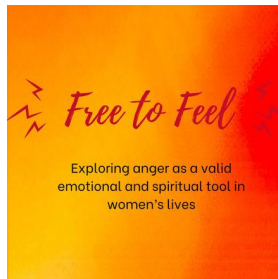
A Note on Donations

- **Loaves and Fishes** is in **GREAT** need of canned protein right now. Please consider making a trip to drop some off today.
- **Little Free Pantry:** Thank you for your continued generosity and care. As we move forward, please remember to bring food that allows for immediate access—items that can be:
 - opened and eaten right away
 - do not require additional ingredients.



- Simple, easy-to-open, individually wrapped foods that can be eaten as is are especially important and help ensure everyone can be served with dignity and ease.

Upcoming Events

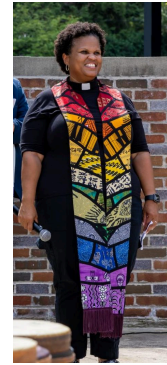


Women's ministry retreat: \$40 per person. Snacks, lunch and crafts included. Childcare provided. Saturday, Jan. 31, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Hoping you will stay for the 5 p.m. service afterward, Pastor Fanya will be attending and preaching!

More information on the News and Events page.

Register through Realm by clicking [HERE](#).



Annual Mozambique Fundraiser Dinner: Join us for a night where joy meets purpose! We're gathering for an evening of delicious food, music, an exciting auction, interactive activities and more--as we support the work God is doing through our mission partners. Cost is \$60 per person / \$150 family / \$450 table of 8. Saturday, Feb. 7, 6-9:00 p.m. at Celebration Campus. To order tickets, click [HERE](#).

Calling all artists ages 3-103! Love is in the Air

Community Art Exhibit! Photographers, painters, poets, quilters, and creatives of all kinds are invited to help fill OSLC with hearts, valentines, and expressions of love. Share photos (weddings, babies, grandbabies, beloved pets), artwork, poetry, meditations, collages--anything **original** that fits our "Love is in the Air," theme. Artwork should be ready to hang, and securely prepared (framed with wire, or matted for pins). Please deliver up to five pieces to the gallery by noon on Wednesday, Jan 28. Please include your name, title, medium, price, and contact information for return of your work.



Mark your calendar!

Feed the Need 2026 will be March 7-8!

FEED THE NEED!™

If you have photos from past years, please email them to communications@oursaviours.com. As we celebrate our 14th year participating in the [Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack](#), we'd love to highlight the joy of serving together by sharing your smiling faces.

- **Dialogues in Faith:** Sunday, Jan. 25, Feb. 1, and Feb. 8, at 11 a.m. Our Saviour's Advent Room. We invite you to dig deeper into "Life Together" with a livestream of *"Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Becoming Christ for Others."* If you can not attend in person and would like to join the livestream, please click here to view the livestream at 11 a.m. CT on the day of class: <https://www.youtube.com/@fourthpresbyterianchurchof3492/streams>
- **The Banned Books Discussion:** Monday, Jan. 26, 7 p.m. In the Bonhoeffer Conference Room at Our Saviour's Campus. Join us to discuss [Son of Hamas](#) by Mosab Hassan Yousef. Whether or not you've read the book, all are welcome to join the conversation.
- **Senior Lunch:** Monday, Feb. 2, 12 p.m. RSVP by Thursday, Jan. 29, 630-355-2522 or email [Debbie Montrose](#).

- **Life Together Ensemble:** Love to sing? Come join us! The Life Together Ensemble will sing during the Sunday, Feb. 1 service, and we'd love to have you be part of it. Join us at 8:15 a.m. in the Our Saviour's Campus Bach Room. No long-term commitment required. Whether you're already in an ensemble or simply looking for a way to lift your voice with others, we'd love to see you there!
- **Common Ground:** next meetings are on Wednesday, Feb 4, April 1, and May 6, 5:15 p.m. in the Our Saviour's Sanctuary.

Ministry Spotlight:

- **Moms in Faith:** Join us! Moms in Faith is a gentle space for moms to pause, breathe, and connect. We gather for time in prayer, shared conversation, and discussion around a devotional topic, creating meaningful dialogues, encouragement, and growth in faith as we walk the journey of motherhood together. Thursdays 9-11 a.m. Our Saviour's Campus

Community Support:

- **Rings of Remembrance: How Grief Marks Us & Grace Holds Us** is a free webinar hosted by our very own Emily Moentmann MDiv LSW. Saturday, Jan. 31. Designed to offer support for people grieving during this season. Register by Friday, Jan. 24, to make use of this free resource. [Rings of Remembrance Flyer Booking link](#)
- **Caregiver's Journey:** Tuesday, Jan. 27, 7-8:30 p.m. Bonhoeffer Conference Room Our Saviour's Campus. A supportive group for caregivers to share, learn, and renew—whether caring for a spouse, child, parent, or loved one. If interested, please contact Laura Weren (*former Healthcare/Nursing Home Administrator*), Barb Paccione (*former Director of Nursing*), or Lin Schollmeyer for more information.
- **SamaraCare Group Grief Support:** is offering two free 8-week virtual grief support groups for adults who have lost a loved one. Sessions begin in Jan. and Feb. and are led by an experienced facilitator. Space is limited—register early. One session will meet virtually every Wednesday from 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m. beginning Jan. 14 through March 11. The next session will meet virtually every Thursday from 7 p.m.- 8:30 p.m. beginning Feb. 5 through March 26. For questions or to register, contact Joellen Hosler, PhD, M.Div., LCPC, at 630-357-2456, ext. 419 or jhosler@samaracarecounseling.org.



Searching for Devotional Writers: (TWO more slots are open from Jan. 30, Feb 6.) We would love to hear your voice! Why not write one of our Weekly Devotionals? **NO experience required!** Devotionals are written by members of the OSLC community and are emailed to the congregation Monday morning. After you sign up for a date, you'll be sent the Lectionary readings for the day on which your devotional will be published. You are encouraged (but not required) to write your entry reflecting on **one** of those readings! Sign up to write a devotional entry [HERE](#).

Weekend Worship

Our Saviour's Campus

- Saturday: 5 p.m.
- Sunday: 9 & 11 a.m.

Celebration Campus

- Sunday: 10 a.m

Looking to make your 2026 **financial pledge** to Our Saviour's? You can do so securely online through Realm [HERE](#).

For livestreamed and recorded worship services, click [HERE](#).

[Welcome Statement](#)

[Council Minutes](#)

[Online Giving](#)

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