



The Crossroads

To Gather | To Send | To Serve

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Sun Prairie WI

HELLO
February

Greetings, family of Our Savior's! Here is the February 2025 edition of *The Crossroads* newsletter. Attached below are links to these sections of the

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Pastor's Activity Blurb For February Newsletter

Over the last several weeks, I've engaged in the following activities outside the church walls:

- 3 Funerals/Commendation of the Dying/Funeral Home meetings
- 6 Visits to members at hospitals, homes, and/or assisted living facilities
- 25 One-on-one meetings with members and/or prospective new members
- 9 Group/board/committee meetings
- 4 Meetings with community partners in ministry
- Weekly text study on Tuesdays with other pastors

**If you're ever curious about a pastor's day-to-day or week-to-week activities, feel free to reach out and ask!*

Pastoral Acts:

Funerals

Ray Zit—January 29, 2025
Judy Saganski—January 30, 2025

From Pastor Hecox

A Time of Healing and Hope

As we enter February together, lots of things are happening around us.

- * The coldest month of the year gives way to a month almost equally as cold
- * Another change in the White House has occurred
- * Black History Month begins
- * OSLC will continue to evolve as we help each other toward a new future

Because of all these realities (and many more) my main focus has been on healing. Friends in Christ, we are all in need of major healing. That's true not just because of the particularities of our circumstances, but it's true of pretty much all people from all times and all places.

For us, and our particular time and place, we seek healing from physical ailments, from anxieties about the state of the world around, from emotions caused by transitions and unexpected changes. There are many wounds, plenty of anxieties, and some profound emotions within us and around us. So it's not surprising that these days, I'm averaging around twenty meetings a week. Some of those meetings are with groups, but most are with individual members who need to process emotions, work through thoughts, and have a trusted person give them their undivided attention and be truly present with them. Once you factor in the phone calls, the emails, and the texts, it all adds up to dozens of individuals coming to their pastor weekly, seeking comfort and searching for healing and hope.

I'm privileged to walk alongside folks as they've been working through these various emotions. There's a lot of love in this congregation, a lot of kindness and support. It's been wonderful to hear those things expressed, and I have in turn found myself encouraged. I'm happy to say that in a time when external forces may cause chaos, there are many, many people helping each other to find inner peace. The Holy Spirit is at work, and healing is already underway.

Sometimes we can get caught in a cycle of doom caused by fears of the political landscape, or anxieties about climate change or impending war, or surprise at unexpected changes in our own personal or collective lives. I believe in a God who makes a way, even when there seems to be no way. That God provides hope and healing even when we don't always understand how it'll happen. I'm watching it happen now with my own eyes, and I'm hopeful you experience it too, and find yourself lifted up in Christ's caring embrace. My prayer is that you find support and love from us, the body of Christ, acting as his hands and feet.

So lift up your hearts, even in the dark and cold. Hold fast to hope and stay focused on Jesus Christ, the author and finisher of our faith and the source of our healing. And may we help each other find healing - and ultimately the joy of the Lord - together. Amen.

Pastor Seth

Council News

Council Notes from January 16, 2025 Meeting

- † Reminder that the Annual Meeting will be Sunday, February 16, 2025, following the 8:00 am service; roughly at 9:00-9:10.
- † A finance meeting for the congregation will be held on Sunday, February 9, 2025, in between services.
- † The Personnel Committee will soon be posting the job opening for our Youth Director. The Council encourages any member who knows of someone who may be interested to contact the Council or the Personnel Committee.

Tim Svendsen

Financial News

Financial Progress Report for December 2024

1) General Fund:	2) Building Fund:
Giving: \$87,755.99	Giving: \$9,973.00
Expenses: \$56,534.72	Expenses: \$13,769.15
Net Cash Flow: \$31,221.27	Net Cash Flow: \$<3,796.15>
YTD Cash Flow: \$<13,062.55>	YTD Cash Flow: \$<1,351.84>

A Note from OSLC's Treasurer:

The 2024 Giving Budget is \$668,500 and as of December 94% has been raised. The 2024 Expenditure Budget is \$729,300 and as of December 96% has been spent. The Cash Flow was a positive \$31,200 at the end of December and Year-to-date was a negative \$13,000. Mortgage payment this month included \$2,300 in interest and \$11,500 in principal.

Financial Forum

The Finance Board will be holding a Financial Forum to discuss the draft spending plan for 2025 to be voted on at the annual meeting on Sunday, February 16th. **The Financial Forum will be held in the Quilters' Room upstairs at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday, February 9th.** You are welcome to bring your questions to the discussion.



Annual Congregational Meeting 2025

On **Sunday February 16th**, we will have our worship services at the regular times of 8:00 and 10:30 am. Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be **between services** on February 16th.



Worship & Music

Updates from Our Savior's Music Department

I have greatly enjoyed my first month serving as the church's music director and organist while continuing as praise band director. Thank you for your words of encouragement and prayers!

This month, I would like to highlight another music group at Our Savior's—the Chancel Ringers.

The Chancel Ringers handbell choir meets weekly on Tuesdays from 6:00-7:30 PM in the sanctuary's loft. The choir plays a variety of music, playing in service at least once per month. The group is always looking for new members—both regular members and substitutes! Some music knowledge is helpful to participate in the group, though not required. For more information, you can contact the group's director, Josh Morano, at (630) 947-5482, or joshuamorano117@gmail.com.



In Christ,
Bekah Morano



**Congratulations John Krueger
on 28 years of service
to Our Savior's Lutheran!**

John Krueger was honored on Sunday, December 29th with a special service and cake reception between services. The service included tributes from former and current staff as well as the President of the Sun Prairie Area Food Pantry. Congratulations John on your retirement and thank you for everything you've done for Our Savior's!



Shown above—John, wife Deana and daughter Anna, along with members of the Our Savior's Senior Choir. At right—Deana, John, and Anna



22nd Annual Food Pantry Christmas Concert at OSLC was a Big Success!

On Friday, December 6th, musical ensembles from Our Savior's and other area churches plus the Sun Prairie Community Choir presented a Christmas concert to benefit the Sun Prairie Area Food Pantry. There was wonderful holiday music and we raised over \$7,000 for the food pantry. A big thank you to all the musicians who participated, to all who attended, to all who brought cookies for the reception, and to all who helped with set up, clean up, and the production of the event!

Evangelism

EVANGELISM UPDATE

The team met to plan activities for 2025. In an effort to make our narthex a more welcoming space, we will focus on sprucing up the Welcome Desk and ask volunteers to again staff the desk area. Also, we will use the TV screen to list activities for the week.

The Blacktop Party was not as successful as we planned. To replace it, an invitation for the community to join us will come sometime in June. Of course, we will participate in the Cornfest Parade and Trunk or Treat as well.

In His service,

Judy Cook
Jim Jaeck
Pat Nicholson

Youth & Family

Early Communion Classes!

On two Sundays, February 23 and March 2, we'll have our annual Early Communion classes from 9:15-10:15 am (during Sunday School hour).

At these classes, the kids (and sometimes parents!) will learn about what Communion is, why we do it, and how this holy mystery impacts our lives. Kids in Kindergarten and 1st grade are welcome, as are their parents. We'll bake bread together, decorate chalices to use at a first communion celebration in worship, and learn about one of our two established Lutheran Sacraments together!



Contact Pastor Seth (seth@oslc-elca.org) or Brenda Wilcox (brenda@wilcoxes.net) to let them know you'll be there!

Disruptive Disciples Winter Dates: The high school youth continue to meet in Ben's Underground each Sunday for hangout, breakfast and discussion. If your teen would like to join, they're welcome anytime! Please mark your calendars for these special event dates.



Sunday, Feb 9th from 9:15-10:15 am - help with Sunday School

Saturday, Feb 15th from 4:00-8:00 pm - Urban Air outing. Meet at the church at 4:00 pm, cost is approx. \$25 per person. Please sign up at the Welcome Desk or email Nicole Crittenden to sign up at nicole@oslc-elca.org

Coming in March . . . Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner on March 4th.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church is recruiting a Youth and Family Director.

The candidate should be an energetic person dedicated to coordinating our youth programs to ensure that youth (grades PreK–early college-age) are fully integrated into the gathering, growing, and giving of the congregation. The position requires enthusiasm, excitement, and a high level of energy. The Youth and Family Director will lead by presence in worship, church programs, and community involvement.

Full-time position including availability on Wednesday evenings, Sunday mornings, and the occasional weekend, as well as for other community and church events.

Compensation and benefits:

- Competitive salary
- Health insurance
- Retirement

Candidate should send cover letter and resume to:

Herb.Held@oslc-elca.org

Fellowship

Eat Boldly—Join Us For a Fun Evening of Fellowship, Good Food and Friendly People!

Our February group dinner will be on **Friday, February 7th** at The Nitty Gritty, 315 East Linnerud Drive, in Sun Prairie. Sign up at the Welcome Desk by Wednesday, February 5th. If questions—contact Gary Dalgaard at (608) 215-0583.

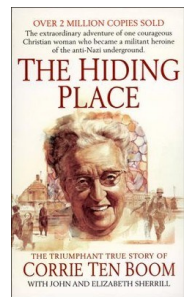


Looking ahead—our March group dinner will be on Friday, March 7th at the Black Bear Inn, 320 West Cottage Grove Road, in Cottage Grove. Look for the sign-up at the Welcome Desk in early February.

Spirited Book Club

The Spirited Book Club will meet on Tuesday, February 11th at 6:30 pm to discuss ***The Hiding Place*** by Corrie Ten Boom. It is a story that recounts the author's family's experiences hiding Jews from the Nazis during World War II.

The meeting will be held at Gloria Hannon's home (886 Hunters Trail in Sun Prairie). Please RSVP to Sandy Richardson or Joy Kroeger. You can also sign up at the Welcome Desk at church.



Thank You Matt! A cake reception was hosted by the Fellowship Committee on Sunday, January 12th to thank Matt Weber for his years of service as Director of Youth and Family Ministry at OSLC. Thank you Matt and best wishes!



Thank You Pastor Peter!

A cake reception was hosted by the Fellowship Committee in honor of Pastor Peter Bredlau on his last day with us—Sunday, January 5th—to thank Pastor Peter for his service to OSLC during our transition time.



Worship & Arts

Altar Flowers Chart for 2025

Would you like to donate a floral arrangement for the altar to honor a family member or to give in memory of loved ones or to celebrate a past or present occasion or celebration? The Altar Flower Board for 2025 is located in the Narthex on the bulletin board just outside the entrance to the Sanctuary. There are two slots listed for each Sunday, and the price per bouquet is \$25.



If you would like to order flowers...please remember to: Sign up on the 2025 Altar Flower Board, fill out an Altar Flower Order Form, and include payment when signing up for your flowers. (Please place your payment in the white box by the bulletin board—or mail it to the church office.)

PLEASE NOTE—Altar Flowers can also be ordered and paid for online through Shelby at the same location as Shelby Giving. If you have any questions about this, call the church office.



A Big Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who stayed after worship on Sunday, January 5th to help take down the Christmas trees and decorations! All the help made the job quick work and was greatly appreciated!

Church in Society

Sunshine Supper Coming in February!!

We're going to be preparing and distributing taco salad meals for approximately 500 people on Monday, February 17th. If you can find it in your hearts to help us out with a financial donation, it would be very much appreciated. You can include a check with your offering, mail one to the church, or drop it off in the mailbox outside. Just make sure you put "Sunshine Supper" in the memo line.



We're also looking for 20 volunteers to prepare and help serve the meal from 4:15 to 6:15 pm. If you would like to help, please email Tom Schlinder at: schlinder1959@gmail.com or call (608) 630-0076.

Tom Schlinder and Steve Olson will be coordinating the February event.
Thank you so much for your support!!

Church in Society



A Call to Justice and Mercy (JAM)

*What does God require of you but to do justice,
love mercy and walk humbly with your God.*

Micah 6:8

We continue our series on the **Prison System in Wisconsin**. Please join us when you can and/or for all the sessions, if possible. Future dates are February 2, 9, 23, March 2, 9, 16, and 23. We meet in the Chapel. No meeting is scheduled on February 16th to allow your attendance at the Annual Meeting.

On February 9th James Morgan from the group **Madison Organizing in Strength, Equity, and Solidarity (MOSES)** will be our speaker. James spent 24 years in prison and has been a member of MOSES since its beginning. Plan on attending as James lends his voice to the transformative justice call in Dane County and Wisconsin.

As we progress through our 9 weeks we will be having 2 more community speakers. All of these will contribute to our understanding of the prison system with a focus on Wisconsin. Elsewhere in Dane County there will be a **re-entry assimilation** in April demonstrating the various aspects all newly released prisoners go through when exiting. Participants assume the identity of this former prisoner and have to walk in their shoes as they attempt to enter back into society. Location is to be announced and registration is necessary. Diane and Sue attended this 3 hour hands-on experience in December and found it to be very eye opening. Anyone can attend so watch for further information.

From the JAM Team: Sue Lux, Linda Frautschy, Diane Padrutt, Peggy Schaub, and Judy Singletary

Rebecca Circle is collecting donations for PorchLight in Madison:

Here is the *Winter Request* for PorchLight:

Ponchos/tarps
Hats
Mittens
Gloves
Scarves
Socks
New underwear
Toiletries
Belts
Sunglasses
Bandanas



Please Note: PorchLight is no longer accepting clothing donations at this time.

Please place your donations for Porch Light in the white wicker basket in the Narthex. **Thank you to the OSLC congregation for all your donations throughout the year!**

Sunshine Food Pantry Assistance

You're invited to bring in these especially needed items for the Food Pantry:

- *ketchup*
- *mustard*
- *mayonnaise*
- *barbeque sauce*
- *pickles*



Please place your donations on the Food Pantry donations table in the Narthex. Thank you for making a difference for Sun Prairie families!

~ February 2025 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 10:00a AA Group Meeting (Room 19)
2 Super Bowl/ Groundhog Day 7:30a New Member Sunday 8:00a Worship 9:00a Coffee Hour 9:15a High School Youth Group 9:15a JAM Adult Ed. 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship 12:00p OSLC Worship Svc.—KSUN 12:00p PP Rehearsal (FH)	3 9:30a SPASD Job Training Students 7:00p Scouts BSA Troops 47 & 747	4 10:00a SPASD Playgroup 11:45a SPASD Playgroup 12:30p JAM Team 12:30p SPASD Job Training Students 6:00p Chancel Ringers (Balcony) 6:00p Scout meeting (Rm. 19) 7:00p Property Committee (Conf. Rm.)	5 9:00a Quilters 9:30a Gather in Prayer (Conf. Rm.) 5:30p Cherub Choir (Chapel) 6:30p Confirmation 7:00p Senior Choir 7:45p CHAOS	6 10:00a SPASD Playgroup 11:45a SPASD Playgroup 12:00p Bible Study (Chapel) 12:30p SPASD Job Training Students	7 7:00p Eat Boldly	8 10:00a AA Group Meeting (Room 19)
9 8:00a Worship 9:00a Coffee Hour 9:15a Financial Forum (Quilters' Room) 9:15a High School Youth Group 9:15a JAM Adult Ed 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship 12:00p OSLC Worship Svc.—KSUN 12:00p PP Rehearsal (FH)	10 9:30a SPASD Job Training Students 6:30p Fellowship Committee - Chapel 7:00p Scouts BSA Troops 47 & 747	11 10:00a SPASD Playgroup 11:45a SPASD Playgroup 12:30p JAM Team Mtg. (Conf. Rm.) 12:30p SPASD Job Training Students 1:00p Pastors Text Study Group (Chapel) 5:30p PP Rehearsal (FH) 6:00p Chancel Ringers (Balcony) 6:00p Scout meeting (Rm. 19) 6:30p Spirited Book Club (@ GH's)	12 9:00a Quilters 5:30p Cherub Choir (Chapel) 6:30p Confirmation 7:00p Senior Choir 7:45p CHAOS	13 10:00a SPASD Playgroup 11:45a SPASD Playgroup 12:00p Bible Study (Chapel) 12:30p SPASD Job Training Students 1:30p Rebecca Circle - Chapel 7:00p Bd. of Finance (OSLC Conf. Rm.)	14 Valentine's Day 5:00p Rehearsal for Nelson/Wethall wedding	15 10:00a AA Group Meeting (Room 19) 3:30p Nelson/Wethall Wedding (starts @ 4 pm) 4:00p HS Youth Group Urban Air Outing
16 Annual Meeting today 8:00a Worship 9:00a Coffee Hour 9:15a Annual Meeting (Sanctuary) 9:15a High School Youth Group 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship 12:00p OSLC Worship Svc.—KSUN 12:00p PP Rehearsal (FH)	17 9:30a SPASD Job Training Students 4:00p Sunshine Supper 6:30p Elizabeth Circle 7:00p Scouts BSA Troops 47 & 747	18 10:00a SPASD Playgroup 11:45a SPASD Playgroup 12:30p JAM Team 12:30p SPASD Job Training Students 5:30p PP Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall) 6:00p Chancel Ringers (Balcony) 6:00p Stamping Group 7:00p Squiracle (Men's Bible Study)	19 9:00a Quilters 9:30a Gather in Prayer (Conf. Rm.) 5:30p Cherub Choir (Chapel) 6:30p Confirmation 7:00p Senior Choir 7:45p CHAOS	20 10:00a SPASD Playgroup 11:45a SPASD Playgroup 12:00p Bible Study (Chapel) 12:30p SPASD Job Training Students 6:00p Executive Committee 6:30p Congregation Council	21	22 10:00a AA Group Meeting (Room 19)
23 8:00a Worship 9:00a Coffee Hour 9:15a Early Communion Class 9:15a High School Youth Group 9:15a JAM Adult Ed. 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship 12:00p OSLC Worship Svc.—KSUN 12:00p PP Rehearsal (FH)	24 9:30a SPASD Job Training Students 7:00p Scouts BSA Troops 47 & 747	25 10:00a SPASD Playgroup 11:45a SPASD Playgroup 12:30p JAM Team 12:30p SPASD Job Training Students 5:30p PP Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall) 6:00p Chancel Ringers (Balcony) 6:30p Martha Circle	26 9:00a Quilters 5:30p Cherub Choir (Chapel) 6:30p Confirmation 7:00p Senior Choir 7:45p CHAOS	27 12:00p Bible Study (Chapel)	28	Notes:



Come Grow With Us

Interested in becoming a member of OSLC? Email the church office at office@oslc-elca.org or call 608-837-3111

Staff at Our Savior's

Associate Pastor

Rev. Seth Hecox
seth@oslc-elca.org

Office Administrator

Darlene Thorstad
darlene@oslc-elca.org

Financial Secretary

Bonnie Shema (Mon. & Wed.)
bonnie@oslc-elca.org

Volunteer Coordinator

Nicole Crittenden
nicole@oslc-elca.org

Dir. of Youth & Family Ministry**Director of Music, Organist,
& Director of Praise Band**

Bekah Morano
bekah@oslc-elca.org

Director of Senior Choir

Rick LaFleur

Director of Chancel Ringers

Josh Morano

Director of Youth Choir

Breta Saganski

Director of Cherub Choir

Diane Padrutt

Accompanist

Diane Padrutt

Temporary Custodian

Chelsea Hecox

Church Office Phone

(608) 837-3111

Congregational Council

President: Tim Svendsen

Vice President: Jen Spredemann

Secretary: Julie Schlinder

Treasurer: Debi Peters

Church in Society: Peggy Schaub

Education:

Evangelism: Pat Nicholson

Fellowship: Ed Nowicki

Finance: Emily LaFleur

Property: Adam Bayliss

Public Relations: Ken Sodemann

Stewardship: Bryan Loney

Worship & Arts: Gail Rockeman

Youth & Family: Steve Kupcho



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offering online!

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Our Savior's Lutheran Church Sun Prairie WI

The Crossroads

February 2025



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



God's work. Our hands.

Sanctuary worship—Sundays at 8:00 am and 10:30 am
Video worship services on our YouTube channel & KSTUN on Sundays

Worship

Office Hours
Monday–Friday 9–4