A Little Bit of Senshine

Email: oslc@rushmore.com

Website: www.oslcspearfish.com

February 2025



Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. Again, if two lie down together, they keep warm; but how can one keep warm alone? And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A

threefold cord is not quickly broken. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-13)

Dear Friends,

For the first 23 years of my ministry (in other words, before I started serving among you here at OSLC) every congregation I was a part of conducted their Annual Congregational Meeting near the end of January. I was overjoyed to inherit a different way of doing things when I arrived here! It makes much more sense to me to have us nail down our budget for the coming year in November, so we don't skate along for almost a month without a spending plan. And, I like splitting up our congregational business with two semi-annual meetings... one for budget stuff and another in the Spring more focused on leadership and receiving ministry reports. It works well!

Having said all that, however, I still can't help but use these first weeks of a new year to reflect on where we've been, who we are and what God might be calling us toward During these ruminations over the last days, I've been wondering: What makes a church The Church? Obviously, we define a church as a congregation... a gathering... of folks who have heard Jesus' call to listen to him, to trust him, to follow him out into the world, making us one with all of the other such congregations of Jesus-followers. It's all of these congregations of Christians that make us *The Church*.

But what are the most fundamental defining characteristics of a congregation of Jesus-followers? Is it their obvious moral and ethical superiority over those outside its bounds? Good luck with that.

Is it their advanced wisdom and effectiveness in determining correct policies and procedures for the advancement of human decency, justice and the general well-being of all in our towns, cities, states and nations? If so, it's eluded me.

Is it the warmth of its welcome to any and all who seek what they could find *nowhere else...* an enfolding sense of belonging and place, where grace reigns and judgement finds no purchase? We'd like to think so, and yet...

It seems to me that more than anything, a congregation of Jesus-followers is, at its most basic, an association of aspirants... people *aspiring* to be an active part of this promised release, freedom and wholeness that Jesus spent so much of his life teaching about, lifting up and exampling. You see, here's the thing: agreement on what we're aiming for is what must define us. We might differ in all sorts of ways on what mechanisms to implement to achieve the goal, and what roads to take to get us where we're going. But what makes us Church is the compelling vision of God's Kingdom, in which *all* are loved, *all* are forgiven, and *all* are redeemed from a life of death!

As I was listening to the new heat pump being installed recently on the north side of our church building (lots of noises, trust me) I was thinking about the words from the fourth chapter of Ecclesiastes, where the writer says, "Again, if two lie down together, they keep warm; but how can one keep warm alone?" Indeed. How can a nearly \$40,000 heat pump replacement happen in mere weeks, unless multiple folks come together to make it happen? And how can one person have supplied the means necessary for our congregation to finish out 2024 "in the black," meeting all of our

Continued on page 2

financial obligations and providing us with the means to not only keep our own ministries moving forward but to powerfully support our partners like Woyotan's warming bus ministry in Rapid, the St. Dysmus Prison Ministry in Sioux Falls and the Artemis House women's crisis center here in Spearfish... each to the tune of over \$3200.00 at year's end? One person couldn't. One person didn't.

But we did... together... letting gratitude move our generosity and keeping our eyes focused on things that really matter, namely, following Jesus into a future where his reign is immanent and evident.

You see, the money isn't the thing. Balanced budgets aren't the thing. Projects like the heat pump replacement aren't the thing. The heat pump and the rapid in-gathering of gifts that made it possible, along with a year-end balanced budget, are born of a desire on the part of a whole bunch of folks to make this house and the congregation who gathers here a warm, welcoming outpost of grace in this place, at this time, and on into this uncertain future. Sometimes we fuss and fight over the map on how to get there... but we're aiming for one destination. In that, I count myself most blessed to be on this road with you.

Us, the neighbor at our side, and the Holy Spirit of God moving us. "A three-fold cord is not quickly broken."

In love and gratitude for you,

Pastor Stephan Sandness

The "Love Your Neighbor" Jar for the month of February will benefit Lutheran Disaster Response.

December's Love Your Neighbor Jar raised \$2,678.49 for the Spearfish Community Food Pantry.

CB Pastoral Acts 80

Baptism January 5

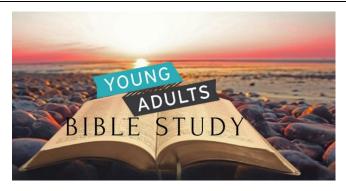
Esther Joy Douglas, child of Erica & Doug Douglas

Wednesday Supper February 5



The meal on Wednesday February 5 will be potluck.

OSLC will furnish ham so please furnish a side dish or dessert.



Join us Tuesday evenings at 7pm at The Living Room for the Young Adults Bible Study Group. Come as you are for a night of fellowship and discussion of the Word. We meet every Tuesday at 7:00 PM. Child care can be provided with advanced notice. Reach out to Brady Harr if interested or with questions 605-641-5949 or bwharr@gmail.com.



Food needs for February are:
Diced Tomatoes, Hamburger Helper,
Tomato Sauce, Pork & Beans,
Canned Ravioli, Applesauce.

Dear friends.

We are now a month into our new year's journey. As we all know, each journey of our lives leads us through a variety of terrain. Sometimes we go around a bend and encounter joyous moments of celebration or discovery. Sometimes we climb a hill or meet a cliff that brings sorrowful moments of loss or fear. We find ourselves asking the questions, "Where is God in hard times?" and "What does it mean to be faithful?"

In these first four months of 2025, our women are engaging with a Bible study written by Denise Rector entitled "Faithfulness" which focuses on those very questions. We are exploring the journeys of: 1) Ruth & Naomi in the Old Testament book of *Ruth*, 2) David in the 22nd chapter of the book of *Psalms*, 3) Peter and Cornelius in the New Testament book of *Acts*, and 4) Jairus and the Woman who is bleeding in the New Testament gospels *Matthew, Mark*, and *Luke*.

Delving into these stories of God's people, sparks our conversation about having faith today, even in difficult times. We are able to affirm that it is God who is faithful, allowing us to be real in sharing our journeys' difficulties and joys and learning to "turn to Scripture and lean on each other."

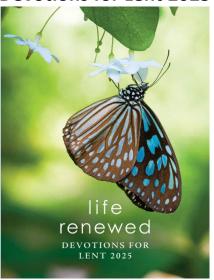
If you are interested in participating in this Bible study, let me connect you!

Peace be with you as we journey ~ ~ Deacon Laura Lee Campbell

SonShine Squad

The SonShine Squad will meet on Monday, February 3 at 9:00 am. to make a small craft that each team will take to the home bound folks we visit. We welcome you to come check out our SonShine Squad to see if this is something you are interested in taking part in. You might help with our crafts, join a visiting team or both.

Life Renewed: Devotions for Lent 2025



By <u>Stacey Nalean-Carlson</u> (Contributor)... God brings new life in unexpected ways and in the most unlikely situations. This devotional reflects on how God does this in the creation of all things, the Israelites' rescue from slavery in Egypt, the dry bones and Ezekiel, the fiery furnace, the big fish and Jonah, and more.

Life Renewed provides devotions for each day from Ash Wednesday to the Resurrection of Our Lord/Vigil of Easter (March 5 to April 19, 2025). The devotions begin with evocative images and brief scripture readings drawn from traditional Easter Vigil texts. The writers then bring their diverse voices and pastoral wisdom to the texts with quotations to ponder, reflections, and prayers.

Look for these free Lenten devotional booklets to be available for pick-up on the Ushers' counter near the sanctuary doors at Our Savior's beginning February 19. We hope you'll grab one for your household! Electronic copies are available for purchase for the Kindle, Nook, or through Google play. Follow this link, choose your format, purchase a copy for your preferred reading app/device.

https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/9798889833819/Life-Renewed



Senior Ministry

Friendship Day

(Penny for your thoughts)
February 11 @ 11:30 AM
Bring a Friend.
Pizza served.

Sunday Morning Transportation

Need a ride to church on Sunday mornings for the 8:30 AM Worship Service? Call the church office (605-642-3715) by 2 pm Friday afternoon to reserve a ride.



February 5: No Confirmation

12: Lesson19: Lesson26: Lesson

February Acolyte Schedule

<u>Sundays, 8:30 AM Worship</u> Mykal Allbright, Brylen Verhulst

Sundays, 10:45 AM Worship

High School Youth Group

7:10 PM, Wednesday Evenings
The Living Room, 810 N. Yale.

For all freshmen through seniors.

On these gathering nights we discuss matters of faith, life and anything on your mind. It is a great hour of fellowship and faith formation. It is a very informal and meaningful evening and bringing a friend or friends is always welcomed.

Our High School Youth are encouraged to signup for reminders by sending a text to: **text @oslcy to the number 81010** Questions? Please contact Chris Blain at <u>ckblain@gmail.com</u>.

Marthas Gathering Women's Evening Bible Study



Faithfulness, by Denise Rector

Continuing monthly sessions:

Tuesday, February 18, 6:30 – 7:45 pm *Psalm 22* Tuesday, March 18, 6:30 – 7:45 pm

Peter & Cornelius

Tuesday, April 15, 6:30 – 7:45 pm Jairus and the Woman who is bleeding

As a resource, we use the *Gather* magazine of the Women of the ELCA.

We meet at the church Fireside Room/Library. Questions? Contact oslc1@rushmore.com or 605-642-3715

Friendship Ministry Extending the love of Christ from Friend to Friend



Friendship Ministers are lay people who make themselves available as listening and supportive friends. They are present through visits, phone calls, conversations at church, at work and in the community. Relationships vary from a one-time visit to a few weeks, a few months or years. Confidentiality is a core component of this ministry.

To learn how you can receive care from a Friendship Minister, call Nancy at 605-645-2723. The care you will receive is confidential and free.

Are you interested in serving as a Friendship Minister? Training is simple and flexible; call Dn. Laura (605-642-3715) for more information.



Thank you to Esther Circle for the lovely, healthy breakfast at the General Meeting January 9. The food was appreciated by all in attendance! Also, we appreciated the speaker Laura Feige, very much as she gave an exceptional talk on Alzheimer's based on her work with the local Alzheimer's Association. We learned a great deal and she was able to provide us after the talk with the contact for the local Alzheimer's Association should anyone be interested in helping or have questions related to their loved one.

<u>March Lenten Lunches information</u>: Our Savior's will host all four Wednesday lunches. The following is the schedule of who will provide the lunch and worship each week.

March 12---Our Savior's Lutheran Church March 19---All Angels Episcopal Church March 26---United Church of Christ April 2---United Methodist Church

NOTE Date Change: April 5 is the new date (not April 25) for the Spring Prayer Brunch & General Meeting at 10am. This date needed to be changed due to the date of the Bear Butte Conference April 26. Please make a note of this date change in your WELCA booklet. The speaker for the Spring Prayer Brunch & General Meeting will be Shirley Hauge, Speech Pathologist, from Black Hills Special Services. We will look forward to hearing her speak. Also, the event will be catered by Lori Kirk and Ruth Circle is hostess.

The February **WELCA Board Meeting is February 5 at 9:30am** at church. If you have any information or questions for the Board please let me know prior to this meeting if possible. Thank you.

Reminder: All of our church Circles, Esther, Deborah, and Ruth, are comprised of hard working ladies who strive to learn about & fulfill the Christian values of our Lord. We welcome everyone who would like to be part of a Circle. Food, fellowship, and spiritual study/discussion are all part of each Circle's monthly meeting. In addition, all of these Circles actively help with the ongoing yearly needs of our church and community.

If you need any information or would like to join any of these circles in 2025 please let me or Deacon Laura Campbell know of your interest as we are glad to have you!

Have a great 2025!

Marvis Custer, WELCA President (605) 631-0182 Marvis.custer@gmail.com

Circle Meetings

IVI 3

Circle Study Leaders:

Monday, Fe<mark>bruary 3</mark> 10:30 AM

Esther Circle

February 13, 1:00 PM Leader: Anda Johnson Hostess: Beth Nielsen

Deborah Circle

February 10, 10:30 AM Leader: Karleen Dagit Hostess: Del Wientjes

Ruth Circle

February 20, 10:00 AM Leader: All Hostess: All



Please remember your Secret Sister during the month of

February by mailing a card and keeping her in prayer!

Personal Care Kit

When LWR distributes Personal Care Kits, it's often to people who have lost everything. In the wake of an earthquake, or having fled from violence as their homes were overtaken, they clasp a towel from a faraway place, with a bar of soap, a toothbrush...and washing up, they know that they have not been forsaken by the world.

Deborah Circle would like to encourage anyone to donate articles or a kit and put in the basket at the back of the fellowship hall. Personal Care Kits are **due Feb. 15.**

Include the following items in each Personal Care Kit:

- One bath-size towel (maximum 52" X 27"), dark color recommended
- Two bars of new soap, bath size in original wrapping
- One toothbrush, adult-size in its original packaging
- One sturdy comb, remove packaging
- One large metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging

Wrap all the smaller items in the towel and tie securely with ribbon or yarn. *Do not enclose in plastic bag.*

Children's Ministry News

WEDNESDAY SCHOOL



It seems like families schedules really go crazy after the holidays, with sports and other activities that pull them all over the place! We want to remind those families that there is another opportunity to have your kids attend Sunday school on Wednesdays!

5:15 – Supper, 5:40 – Classes, 6:26 – Worship on Wednesday Feel free to join us for any one part of the evening or all of it!

MILESTONE MINISTRY

* February 9 – Second-grade class and their parents will learn about The Lord's Prayer and the basic meaning behind it. Then during Lent, they will help Pastor Sandness by leading the congregation in this prayer during worship.



EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee meets monthly to plan and discuss ideas for Christian Education classes, activities and needs in our church. We meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 5:30 at the church. We would love to have some parents join us to add their input for future classes and programing! Just let Beth or Laura know about your interest so we can provide more information!

CAMP NEWS Registration is open!





- * Available camps include YOUTH CAMP (3rd 8th grade), ADVENTURE CAMP (8th 12th grade), FAMILY CAMP for your whole family, and other camp weeks too!
- * OSLC has a long history of supporting children's faith development by helping them go to camp. Camperships are provided for all kids that attend camp from OSLC, regardless of need! Never-ever let cost be a reason that your child doesn't attend camp! Lutherans Outdoors has additional scholarships available as well.
 - ***NEW FOR 2025*** We have Camperships available families to attend Family Camp this summer! Please talk to Pastor Stephan, Deacon Laura or Miss Beth for more details.





PASS Class

"Parents And Sunday School" or P.A.S.S Class will meet on February 9 at 10'ish and the topic will be "faith on the run"! This class is for parents with children from newborns through 6th grade and beyond.

Upcoming classes:

February 9 – Feeding Yourself First, March 2 – Lent in your home, April 6 – Faith on the Run

Did Adam and Eve ever have a date?

No, they had an apple.



Where do you find love in a grocery store?

Aisle B... there for you.

Trea\$urer's Report

As of December 31, 2024

Year-to-date Offerings: \$639,466.59 Year-to-date Expenses: \$615,245.69 Year-to-date Budget \$657,885.00



Volunteer Help Needed:

We are looking for a substitute helper(s) for coffee hour on Sunday

mornings and to oversee the meals during confirmation on Wednesday evenings.

If you would be interested in filling in with one or the other, or both, please call or text Pam Englund at 605-639-9988 for more information.



Feb. 2 Malachi 3:1-4 or Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm 84 or Psalm 24:7-10

or Psalm 71:1-6 Hebrews 2:14-18

or 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Luke 2:22-40 or Luke 4:21-30

<u>Feb. 9</u> Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-13] Psalm 138

> 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Luke 5:1-11

Feb. 16 Jeremiah 17:5-10

Psalm 1

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Luke 6:17-26

Feb. 23 Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

Luke 6:27-38

FAITH & CARE

Serving in Worship and Fellowship

Every household is encouraged to sign up to serve in various ways on Sunday mornings at **any time** throughout the year!

Servers are needed as:

- Welcome center hosts
- Ushers
- Communion assistants
- Snack providers
- Coffee Server

This QR Code link to SignUp Genius will allow you to sign up at your convenience.

Job Descriptions are posted by the Church Kitchen for your information. Questions or need help signing up? Contact Sommerlyn Clausen at 605-381-5422



Office Notes:

The Good Shepherd Clinic will be closed Monday, February 17 in observance of Presidents' Day

The deadline for submission of items for the March newsletter is *Thursday, February 20.* Please send your newsletter items to Lisa at oslc4@rushmore.com

Ways to give electronically:

Scan this code to give online





Scan the code or go to our website, click on the Online Giving button:

Clicking on that button will take you to a secure page on which you can donate to the vital ministries of Our Savior's Lutheran Church directly from a checking or savings account, or using a credit or debit card.

A reminder... Our website contains the monthly newsletter, monthly calendar, and much more...Check it out at:

www.oslcspearfish.com.

Has your address or phone number changed? Please let us know at 605-642-3715 or e-mail Julie at oslc@rushmore.com

Prefer not to receive a paper copy of our newsletter? Let us send you an email with a link to our newsletter when it's posted to our website. If you are interested, please send your email address to Julie at oslc@rushmore.com or call us at 605-642-3715. Thank you!

Recent letter from our scholarship student in Guatemala.

Dec 2024

Dear Godparents of Our Savior's Lutheran Church,

It's a pleasure to write to you again. I hope that you are all doing well and are in good health. In this letter, I want to share what I've been up to these past few months.

I'm doing well in school. We are just finishing up the school year, we only have three weeks left. We have been busy at school with different activities, such as the school's anniversary. As part of the celebration, there was a queen pageant to select Miss CEDUCA to represent our school. We also had Miss Independence and Miss Silver Anniversary, because the school is celebrating its 25-year anniversary. I participated in a regional dance with our classroom's candidate. It was a lot of fun. In September, we celebrated Guatemala's 203rd independence, and we decorated our classroom with patriotic symbols. My classmates went on a trip for the symbolic "running of the torch", which is a tradition here in Guatemala.

My tutoring sessions are going well. Whenever I have a question, I am able to get it resolved at my tutoring sessions. This helps me to better understand my schoolwork. I have an hour and half long session every week.

In the Reading Circles, we read a book together. I like the book we are currently reading. I love to read, even though sometimes I get lazy and don't do it. Right now, I am reading three books at once. We do different activities as part of the Reading Circle, all based on our reading. I have a lot of fun. For my volunteer hours, I help the ladies at the Elder Center to make tortillas, cook and wash dishes.

During my school vacation this year, I am going to try to find a job to help with some of the expenses around the house. I also would like to spend some time with my friends. For Christmas, I want to spend time with my family. It's our tradition to make tamales and fruit punch for Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. I also want to read some of the books that are on my reading list and watch movies. I have a lot of plans for my time, and I hope that my three months of vacation are enough time.

Thanks to God, my family and I are doing well. We are healthy and together, even though there are sad moments sometimes.

Lastly, I want to thank you all for my scholarship. It has helped me a lot in my schooling. I hope that everything is going well for you all. I wish you all good health. May your lives be full of blessings. I say goodbye now.

With much love and care.

Marta Concepcion Cali Damian Your scholarship Student



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						9:00 AM – 11:00 AM Piano Guild Auditions
8:30 AM Worship Service 9:45 AM Education hour 9:45 AM 2 nd Grade Milestone The Lord's Prayer 10:45 AM Joyful Journey-led Worship Service	9:00 AM SonShine Squad 10:30 AM Circle Study Leaders 1:00 PM Yarn Ministry 6:00 PM Good Shepherd Clinic	8:30 AM Fix-it Group 9:00 AM Quilting 5:30 PM Education Comm. 7:00 PM Young Adults Bible Study @ The Living Room	9:30 AM WELCA Board Mtg 1:00 PM KidZone 5:15 PM Bell Choir NO Confirmation 5:16 PM Wednesday Supper POTLUCK NO Wednesday School 6:26 PM Wednesday Word 7:00 PM Senior Choir 7:10 PM HS Youth @ TLR	12:00 PM Lunch @ TLR 12:30 PM Quilting 6:30 PM Book Talk	6:00 AM Christian Business Men's Group at TLR	8:00 AM Men's Fellowship
9	Pastor's Day Oπ 10	11	12	13		15
8:30 AM Worship Service 9:45 AM Education hour 10:00 AM PASS Class 10:45 AM Joyful Journey-led Worship Service	10:30 AM Deborah Circle 1:00 PM Yarn Ministry 6:00 PM Good Shepherd Clinic	8:30 AM Fix-it Group 9:00 AM Quilting 11:30 AM Senior Ministry Friendship Day & Pizza 2:00 PM Two on Tuesday Women's Bible Study 5:30 PM Mission Team 6:00 PM Finance Committee 6:30 PM Church Council 7:00 PM Young Adults Bible Study @ The Living Room	5:15 PM Bell Choir 5:15 PM Confirmation 5:16 PM Wednesday Supper 5:40 PM Wednesday School 6:26 PM Wednesday Word	12:00 PM Lunch @ TLR 12:30 PM Quilting 1:00 PM Esther Circle 6:30 PM Book Talk	6:00 AM Christian Business Men's Group at TLR Deacon's Day Off	
16	17		_			22
8:30 AM Worship Service 9:45 AM Education hour 10:45 AM Joyful Journey-led Worship Service 3:00 PM Piano Recital	10:30 AM Senior Ministry 1:00 PM Yarn Ministry Good Shepherd Clinic ~ Closed	8:30 AM Fix-it Group 9:00 AM Quilting 6:30 PM Marthas Gathering Women's Evening Bible Study 7:00 PM Young Adults Bible Study @ The Living Room	5:15 PM Bell Choir	10:00 AM Ruth Circle 12:00 PM Lunch @ TLR 12:30 PM Quilting 1:00 PM Cradle Roll 6:30 PM Book Talk	6:00 AM Christian Business Men's Group at TLR 3:30 PM Delta Kappa Gamma Set-up	8:00 AM Men's Fellowship 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM Delta Kappa Gamma
	Pastor's Day Off			Newsletter Items Due	Deacon's Day Off	
8:30 AM Worship Service 9:45 AM Education hour 10:45 AM Joyful Journey-led Worship Service 3:00 PM Bear Butte Conference Assembly South Canyon Lutheran Rapid City	1:00 PM Yarn Ministry 6:00 PM Good Shepherd Clinic		10:45 AM Edgewood Vista Worship Service 5:15 PM Bell Choir	27 12:00 PM Lunch @ TLR 12:30 PM Quilting 6:30 PM Book Talk	6:00 AM Christian Business Men's Group at TLR 7:00 AM GSC Board Mtg.	
	Pastor's Day Off				Deacon's Day Off	

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

1020 State Street Spearfish, SD 57783

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Our Savior's Lutheran Church

1020 State Street Spearfish, SD 57783

Staff: Stephan Sandness, Senior Pastor

Laura Campbell, Deacon

Beth Nielsen, Director of Children's Ministries

Julie Lee, Office Manager Lisa Williams, Receptionist

Worship: Sundays 8:30 am Worship Service

10:45 am Joyful Journey-led Worship Service

Live stream at 8:30 AM or watch later! Connect through our web site.

Wednesday 6:26 pm Wednesday Word

Church Office located at 1020 State Street Church Phone Number: 605-642-3715

Kitchen/Quilting Phone Number: 605-722-0660

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday

WEB site: www.oslcspearfish.com oslc@rushmore.com

