

# The Sentinel

January 2024

*Our Saviour's Lutheran Church is a dynamic community,  
centered in Christ, called, nurtured and sent-  
to celebrate, serve and do justice.*

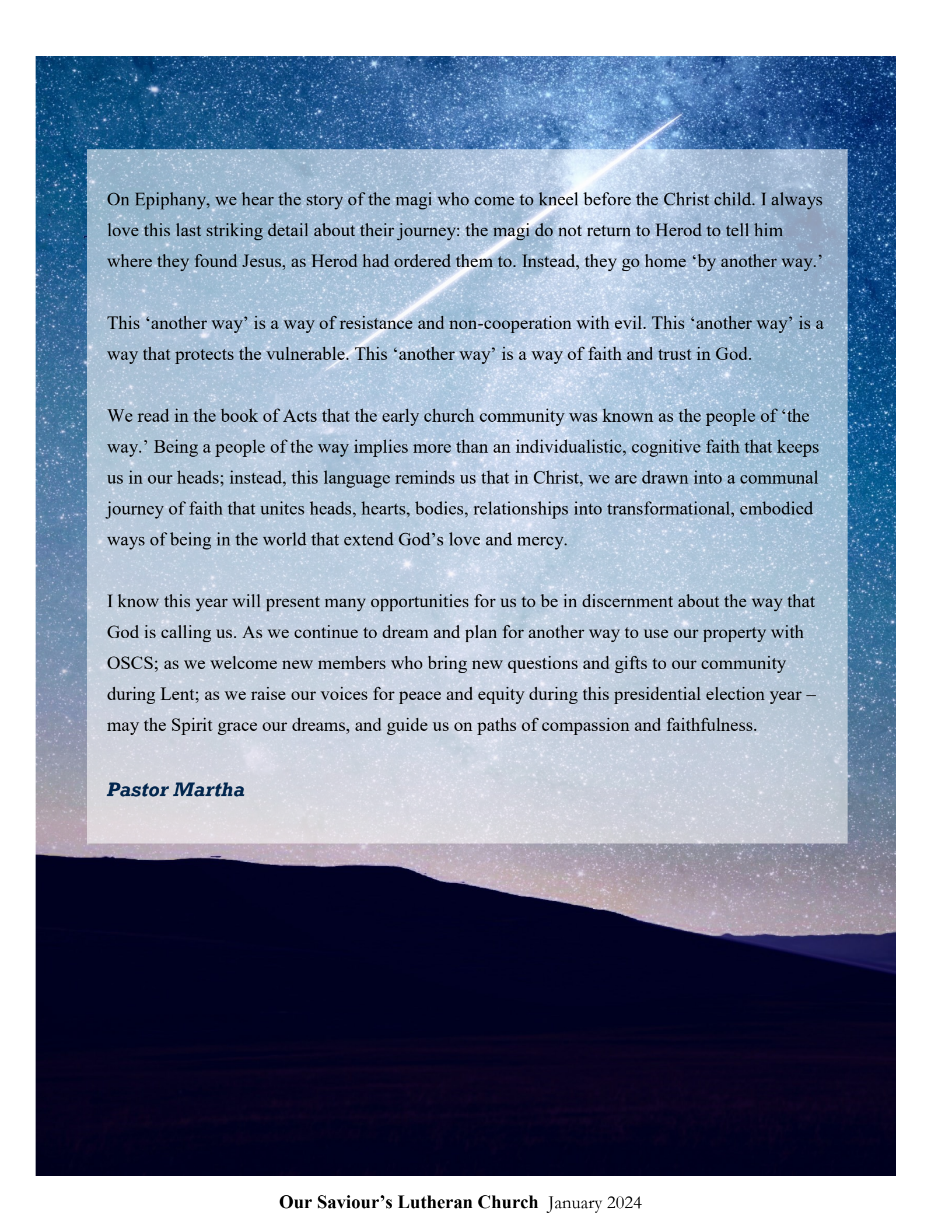
## Another Way in 2024

*On entering the house, the magi saw the child with Mary his mother;  
and they knelt down and paid him homage.*

*Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold,  
frankincense, and myrrh.*

*And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for  
their own country by another way.*

*Matthew 2:11-12*



On Epiphany, we hear the story of the magi who come to kneel before the Christ child. I always love this last striking detail about their journey: the magi do not return to Herod to tell him where they found Jesus, as Herod had ordered them to. Instead, they go home ‘by another way.’

This ‘another way’ is a way of resistance and non-cooperation with evil. This ‘another way’ is a way that protects the vulnerable. This ‘another way’ is a way of faith and trust in God.

We read in the book of Acts that the early church community was known as the people of ‘the way.’ Being a people of the way implies more than an individualistic, cognitive faith that keeps us in our heads; instead, this language reminds us that in Christ, we are drawn into a communal journey of faith that unites heads, hearts, bodies, relationships into transformational, embodied ways of being in the world that extend God’s love and mercy.

I know this year will present many opportunities for us to be in discernment about the way that God is calling us. As we continue to dream and plan for another way to use our property with OSCS; as we welcome new members who bring new questions and gifts to our community during Lent; as we raise our voices for peace and equity during this presidential election year – may the Spirit grace our dreams, and guide us on paths of compassion and faithfulness.

***Pastor Martha***

## **Mission of the Month: Our Saviour's Housing**

### **A word from Executive Director of Our Saviour's Community Services**

*Michael Huffman*

Dear OSLC Community,

We are excited to share that Our Saviour's Community Services has been awarded funds from the state's Office of Economic Opportunity to make important accessibility and safety upgrades while expanding the physical capacity by adding a second level to our space at our emergency shelter located at 2219 Chicago Avenue.

You may recall hearing about this application in various avenues and forums this fall. The funding we are receiving is a part of \$98 million in one-time public investments to improve existing shelters and build new shelter spaces statewide. This award connects directly to the OSLC Council's motion and the congregational vote from October to move forward with transferring ownership of the 2219 Chicago building to Our Saviour's Community Services, with a reversion clause.

You may hear more about the property transfer in the weeks ahead, and will certainly hear more about the work as plans and timelines solidify. For now, please accept our gratitude for this gift, and all the opportunities it opened. The planned property transfer simplified our request for funding, and, more importantly, moved our application into a priority category for this funding.

The anticipated accessibility improvements and expansion would not have been possible without your support. Thank you.

We anticipate construction on this program beginning in April of 2025 and ending in September of 2025.

Our shelter operations will temporarily move to another location for about six months during the construction. When the project is complete, we will return to serving roughly as many guests at a time as we did pre-pandemic, but in a more accessible space, with every guest having their own sleeping quarters.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the work of OSCS.

With Gratitude,

**Mike**

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## **January 7 Workshop on making mats has been postponed!**

The new date will be announced. We are still happy to collect plastic bags with handles.

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## **Confirmation is starting!**

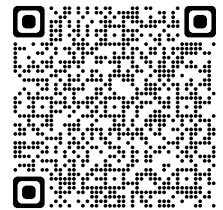
***Pastor Esther***

We will begin our Confirmation Class on Sunday, January 21 at 9:00 AM in the office conference room. All youth who are 7th and 8th graders are welcome to join! We will continue using Manna and Mercy by Daniel Erlander. We will meet in person once a month on Sundays and will plan to be out in the community! The first community outing is volunteering at the Food Shelf in Calvary Lutheran Church on Saturday, January 27. Mark your calendar!

Looking forward to our time together! For more information, please contact Pastor Esther ([esther@oursavioursmpls.org](mailto:esther@oursavioursmpls.org))

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## **Kids' Choir and Drumming class** **Wednesdays, January 10 – February 11,** **5:30 dinner, 6 – 7pm class**



Quite a few OSLC parents and kids have been asking for a kids' choir for some time. We did an experiment last Lent which was really fun, and this Jan-Feb we're taking it to the next level!

On Wednesdays in Lent, January 10 – February 11, we will have a kids' choir and drumming class for kids. Kids of all ages are welcome, but the experience is primarily geared towards ages 5-12. Older kids can be helpers. The leaders of the singing/drumming class are so great with leadership development and will help to foster their leadership.

For this class, we are partnering with Kent Goodroad (who was an OSLC youth director some years ago!) and Alyssa 'Lou' Schwitzer of LK Arts Academy. We may extend the class, depending on how things go. The kids will share their musical gifts in worship on February 11.

For families – use the QR Code to sign up.

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## **Wednesday Community Meals are back!**

### **Beginning January 10, 5:30 – 6:30pm**

This time – with 'dish team'!

We will welcome back Robin Nelson to the kitchen as our community meal chef; Robin used to cook for OSLC several years ago. Come for this time of community connection, beginning January 10 and continuing through March 20. We will be collecting free will donations to help cover the cost of the meal.

An additional way we will be building community in these meals is by adding 'dish team' to our evenings. Every night, we'd love to have a team of 2-3 people to wash and put away dishes. We will have a sign up available at church in the kitchen. Please add your name and pitch in!

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## **Pastor Martha's Sabbatical 2024**

**April 15 – July 15, 2024**

*Pastor Martha*

In November, OSLC church council voted to approve a sabbatical leave for me from mid-April (after Easter) through mid-July. For those of you unfamiliar with sabbaticals, sabbaticals are recommended for pastors in the Minneapolis Area Synod every 5-7 years of ministry. As I begin my 8<sup>th</sup> year at Our Saviour's serving as a pastor, I am very grateful to receive this time for rest and renewal, learning and leisure! Pastor Esther and I will be working on a sabbatical coverage plan in the coming months. I am deeply grateful to this community for generously granting me this time away. I am cognizant that many others in our society are not afforded time for renewal like this. My sincere hope is that this time will be a gift for all of us, as you will have time to bond with Pastor Esther, and I will have time to renew my energy and refresh my imagination for the big work we have ahead of us in reimagining our property and continuing to live out the gospel in Phillips neighborhood and beyond.

### **Adult forums in January**

*Pastor Martha*

Adult forums are at 9am in the hospitality center and on Zoom.

Here is the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86297261334>

*January 7 – Getting to know the Indigenous Protector Movement, with ED Crow Bellecourt* – We will welcome Crow Bellecourt, Executive Director of Indigenous Protectors Movement, and son of AIM co-founder Clyde Bellecourt. Pastor Martha and some OSLC members first connected with two leaders from IPM; Rachel Dionne Thunder and Vinny Dionne, when we did our prayer vigil at the Roof Depot site on Palm Sunday 2023. Then, as we did our neighborhood inreach in May, we heard that IPM may be interested in some of our property as we reimagine and redevelop it. Mike Huffman and Pastor Martha have met with their board as well. We are impressed with their mission and look forward to building more of a relationship as a community.

*January 14 – Outreach, Community, and Faith Formation!*

We are trying something new this year and having a couple of our ministry 'tables' meet on Sunday mornings as the adult forum at 9am. Everybody - new and old, elected members and not – is invited to sit at a table and get involved in reflection and action related to our church's outreach, community life, and faith formation.

*January 21 – Property forum: What do we need? What does success look like?*

We will take time to listen to one another on these 2 questions: What do we as a congregation need from this property reimagining/redevelopment process? When the project is complete, how will we know we have been successful? We would love to have as many of you present as possible. Please read David Scheie's article for some information about our discernment timeline and how this conversation fits into the whole picture.

*January 28 – TBD*

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# Nenookaasi Healing Camp Update

**Pastor Esther**

Nenookaasi Healing Camp is planned to be closed on January 4th. The city is claiming they have 90 temporary beds (those are the mats on the floor, single night beds) in shelters but they have more people who need beds and to have a permanent house. Shelter is not a safe stable housing. People are traumatized. They propose to the city to open a Cultural Healing Center in the vacant Ebenezer building (or similar) for the 160 residents of Camp Nenookaasi. Instead of evicting the camp on January 4th with no safe place for people to go In Luke 6:20-21, Jesus says, "Then he looked up at his disciples and said: 'Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.' Please lift your prayers and voices for the residents to be safe, and to have safe housing and a service provider for their mental and health conditions.

You can read more about the camp by clicking below of these options:

Follow [@CampNenookaasi](https://www.instagram.com/CampNenookaasi) on Instagram

A blessed New Year 2024 to you all! I look forward to praying, listening, learning, visiting, and working closely with you all at Our Saviour's. To God be the Hope and the Glory!

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## Wilderness Canoe Base Intergenerational Trip Our Saviour's Family Camp July 25 - 28, 2024 Info session January 14 after church

Join the fun at Wilderness Canoe Base this summer. It's an intergenerational family camp. All are welcome to enjoy time in this beautiful north woods setting. Activities include canoeing, swimming, hiking, campfires and more. We'll be staying in the camp's cabins and all meals will be provided.



Interested? Add your name to the document. Use the QR Code to be included in the Camp updates and information. We will also have an info session to learn more on January 14 after church. Or call Jeanne Heer at 763-954-1552.



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## **Joint women's retreat with Valley of Peace Lutheran in Golden Valley February 23 – 25, Dunrovin Retreat Center**

Our annual joint women's retreat will be February 23 – 25 at the beautiful and cozy Dunrovin Retreat Center in Marine on St. Croix. We are welcoming a guest speaker this year – Rev. Kathryn Tiede. She will guide us in reflection on forgiveness and reconciliation, and we will be equipped to practice and wrestle with these topics in our daily lives.

A brochure is available in the narthex and on the church website, along with instructions for registration.

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## **Hope Academy Parking Ramp available on Sunday mornings**

***Nancy Johnson***

On Sunday mornings, between 8am and 1pm, you are welcome to park in the Hope Academy parking ramp located on 24th street between Chicago and Park Avenues. Make sure you exit the ramp before 1pm as the arms will come down at that time. Parking at other times may be available and will be announced for each specific event.

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## **Welcoming New Members – *this Spring***

If you are new to OSLC and interested in membership – wonderful! We hope you have already experienced a warm and heartfelt welcome at OSLC. We have a practice of welcoming new members all at once, once/year. This time is coming up this Spring, during the season of Lent. New member welcome day will be our Easter Vigil service on Saturday, March 30. More information to come.

Feel free to reach out to Pastor Martha with any questions.

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## **Join Us for an Intergenerational Dance and Potluck**

**January 20, 3:30-5:30PM**

***Jeanne Heer***

MCFF Table is excited to invite you to a lively and fun-filled intergenerational dance and potluck on Saturday, January 20th. Dancing 3:30 to 5:30 pm and potluck to follow. Get ready to kick up your heels and dance. Live music will be provided by Bret Hesla, Linda Breitag, and Robin Nelson

Whether you're a seasoned dancer or taking your first steps onto the dance floor, Robin Nelson will call and guide you through the steps. No experience required—just a willingness to have a great time!

Robin McGalliard Nelson delights in leading people of all abilities in traditional folk dance and song! She has over 25 years of experience calling dances and song-leading for all kinds of gatherings. She is a regular dance caller for contra dances and family dances at the Tapestry Folkdance Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota, as well as calling for many other gatherings - she especially loves calling for multi-generational and less experienced folks. With her relaxed and easy-to-follow teaching, Robin strives to help build connections and create a joyful community wherever people gather – either on the dance floor or to raise voices in song.

Questions? Just ask Jaimie Bennett 612-799-2136, [jaimie.bennett04@gmail.com](mailto:jaimie.bennett04@gmail.com)

See you on the dance floor.

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## Daily Work Update

*Julie Hoff, Executive Director and Maryellen Skan, volunteer*

Thank you, Our Saviour's, for your generous gift to Daily Work. Your ongoing support helps us continue to be a leader in our community in mitigating the systemic barriers that limit access and opportunity for job seekers. Our work is grounded in an awareness of the relationship between long-term poverty, unemployment and underemployment, and the disproportionate impact of both on Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.

As immigration increases, your support of our job seekers, especially those navigating the complex journey of establishing a new life in our community, is critical. The comprehensive range of services Daily Work offers, from employment assistance to basic needs and tech training, is a lifeline for many who are striving to find quality work and thrive in our community.

Your support has not only provided immediate, tactical assistance, but has also inspired hope and positivity for our job seekers. Your commitment and generosity is a powerful reminder of the kindness and generosity that exists in our community.

Together, we are driving change and building better futures for all.

[Learn more about Daily Work on our website ([daily-work.org](https://daily-work.org)). While there, you can sign up for our e-newsletter and like us on Facebook.]

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## Let's bring our four fearless youths to the Multicultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE) and the Youth Gathering in New Orleans!

*Pastor Esther*

This year we have Konami Khabeb and Clara Owens confirmed to participate in both events of the biggest ELCA Youth Gathering! We will also have Khenna and Khonni Khabeb attending MYLE along with Pastor Angela Khabeb who will be one of the speakers at MYLE. Benhi Khabeb and I (Pastor Esther) will be the adult leaders. We will be flying to New Orleans on July 12 and returning on July 21, 2024!

This year's theme is Created To Be from Psalm 139:14, "I praise you for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well." Our youth will explore how they are created to be brave, authentic, free, and disruptive disciples. At MYLE, they will incorporate the theme Created To Be into the overall Gathering. There will be deeper conversations about justice, mental health, and anti-racism conversations throughout the Gathering.

We are super excited for our youth to participate in faithful conversations, meet other youths, mentors, and leaders, and be present with each other.

The youth will be doing a variety of fundraising activities beginning with selecting an envelope with a number that has a photo of a traveler, a story about that traveler, and a request for a prayer during our travels. Each envelope will be numbered 1 to 100. The request would be for you to take one or two envelopes, keep the card, and put \$1 in the envelope if you select Envelope #1, and \$100 in the envelope if you select Envelope #100. We plan to start this fundraising on Sunday, January 21st until we reach our goal. The youth will also host an Easter Breakfast, parents' night out, and one of the Wednesday community meals. Thank you for your kind support and attention!



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# **Property Development Study Group and Forums this January**

**David Scheie**

Progress continues in our work to redevelop our campus for higher and better use. A Joint OSLC/ OSCS Property Committee has been meeting biweekly for months to guide efforts. Recently, congregation treasurer Tal Anderson and I joined the committee. It now has eight members: three with joint OSLC/OSCS affiliation (Pastor Martha, Rico Morales who's an OSLC member and OSCS resident, and Renate Willer who's an OSLC member and OSCS operations manager); three with OSCS affiliation (executive director Mike Huffman, housing program director La'Quadra Neal, and development & communications manager Robin Stramp); and Tal and I who are OSLC members.

## **Highlights to date**

An important early stage occurred last spring and summer when we conducted a neighborhood inreach campaign. About 20 congregation members plus several OSCS staff were trained in 1:1 conversations by our own Grant Stevensen. Then we did listening conversations with over 30 people who live or work near the church, to learn their hopes and concerns for the neighborhood, our two organizations, and how best to use our half-city block.

On October 15, we held a "Property Reimagining Forum" at church to review what we learned through the neighborhood inreach and to surface ideas and cautions from church members.

Pastor Martha and Mike have networked with a range of people and organizations experienced in congregational housing and community development projects. These include Hans Lee, who was pastor of Calvary Lutheran Church at Chicago and 39th when that congregation decided to partner with Trellis Company, Simpson Housing Services, and the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority to create 41 units of affordable and supportive housing on its property. Another has been City of Lakes Community Land Trust, one of OSLC's reparations grantees, which uses the land trust model of affordable homeownership. They've approached Normandale Housing Corporation and Normandale Lutheran Church in Edina, who own and operate the house beside our church as supportive family housing, about cooperating with our project. They've spoken with neighborhood indigenous leaders and others about possible participation as well.

## **Many possibilities – and a commitment to act**

We face many options and questions. What kind of housing, for what size and type of households, shall we develop? What other spaces for congregational ministries, OSCS operations, and other community programming (e.g. childcare) do we want to include? How about green space? Parking space? How can we redevelop with a racial equity and reparations lens? What about the financing – where will the money for this come from? Should the congregation expect a revenue stream from the project to support other ministries?

We are conscientious about exploring these many possibilities -- and we want to make reasonable choices in timely fashion so that a decent project actually gets done. As the saying goes, we don't want the perfect to become the enemy of the good. The Joint Property Committee is aiming to make key design decisions by early March: we will hold a retreat on March 2 for this purpose.

**Next steps: you're invited!**

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To get us – and the congregation – ready, we are launching twin ventures in January. We encourage all Our Saviour’s members who care about what we do with our campus to participate in one or both:

- A Property Development Study Group will meet on Wednesday evenings between 6-7:30pm : Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 at church, with reading and other homework in between, to explore our options and dilemmas in depth. This Study Group will tap planning resources that Pastor Martha and Mike have gathered, especially from [www.RootedGood.org](http://www.RootedGood.org).
- A series of Adult Forums on every other Sunday: Jan. 7, Jan. 21, and Feb. 4, will explore aspects of our property development journey. These will likely include:
  - On Jan. 7, a conversation with leaders of the Indigenous Protectors Movement, Phillips neighbors of ours, about what a reparations lens and including them in this project could look like. What if we allocate a parcel on Elliot for their ownership and use? What other expressions of partnership might we consider?
  - On Jan. 21, we’ll explore 2 key questions: (1) What would success in this property project look like for the congregation? (2) What does the congregation need from this project? We’ll use a reflective dialogue process that worked well recently for OSCS stakeholders when they grappled with these questions.
  - On Feb. 4, we’ll share key learnings and continuing questions from the study group process, and invite congregational input to carry forward as we prepare for the March 2 retreat.

Questions? Comments?

Please RSVP for the study group, or share questions by contacting Tal Anderson ([tal612mpls@gmail.com](mailto:tal612mpls@gmail.com), 612-251-8313) or David Scheie ([dscheie@touchstone-center.com](mailto:dscheie@touchstone-center.com), 612-232-2912).



# Lectionary Text for Home Devotions

## January 7

Isaiah 60:1-6  
Matthew 2:1-12  
Ephesians 3:1-12  
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

## January 14

1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]  
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
1 Corinthians 6:12-20  
John 1:43-51

## January 21

Jonah 3:1-5, 10  
Psalm 62:5-12  
1 Corinthians 7:29-31  
Mark 1:14-20

## January 28

Deuteronomy 18:15-20  
Psalm 111  
1 Corinthians 8:1-13  
Mark 1:21-28

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## PRAYER LIST

- Paula Svendahl, recovering from surgery
- Mary Preus' brother, Joel, undergoing cancer treatment
- Paul Rogers, in hospice, and Cam Rogers accompanying him
- Kristie Hennig's niece, Sarah, receiving chemo
- Kristie Hennig's brother, Kenny, recovering from surgery for oral cancer
- Elizabeth, Linda Thorson's niece
- Emily, Jeanne Heer's niece, diagnosed with cancer
- Patrick Herson's brother-in-law Michael, who has stage 4 cancer
- Anton Moore, undergoing physical therapy
- Noah, Bruce Pederson's son, undergoing treatment for prostate cancer
- Deanna Thompson, Linnea's mother, who has a recurrence of breast cancer
- Peace in Ukraine, Middle East and in the world

## How to Reach Us

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612-871-2967  
oursavioursmpls.org

### Pastor:

Martha Schwehn Bardwell option 3  
Esther Sianipar option 4

### Music Director:

Mary Preus option 6

### Office Manager:

Marcin Cienski option 7

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OSCS 612-871-5900

### Executive Director:

Michael Huffman option 1

**Deadline for the February 2024 Sentinel is Monday, January 29**

## January 2024 at Our Saviour's

Sunday, January 7	9:00am –10:30am	Sunday school, Godly Play, Nursery and Adult Forum
	10:00am	Choir and Hospitality
	10:30am	<b>Worship in Sanctuary and Online</b>
	11:30am	Basket Making Youth Event
	11:30am	Church Council (CR)
Tuesday, January 9	12:45am-2:00pm	Staff Meeting (CR)
Wednesday, January 10	10:15am-12:00pm	Bible Study on Zoom
	5:00pm	Community Meal
	6:00pm-7:00pm	Kids' Choir
	7:00pm	Choir evening prayer and rehearsal
Sunday, January 14	9:00am –10:30am	Sunday school, Godly Play, Nursery and Adult Forum
	10:00am	Choir and Hospitality
	10:30am	<b>Worship in Sanctuary and Online</b>
Tuesday, January 16		No Staff Meeting
Wednesday, January 17	10:15am-12:00pm	Online Bible Study on Zoom
	5:00pm	Community Meal
	6:00pm-7:00pm	Kids' Choir
	7:00pm	Choir evening prayer and rehearsal
Sunday, January 21	9:00am –10:30am	Sunday school, Godly Play, Nursery and Adult Forum
	10:00am	Choir and Hospitality
	10:30am	<b>Worship in Sanctuary and Online</b>
Tuesday, January 23	12:45am-2:00pm	Staff Meeting (CR)
Wednesday, January 24	10:15am-12:00pm	Online Bible Study on Zoom
	5:00pm	Community Meal
	6:00pm-7:00pm	Kids' Choir
	7:00pm	Choir evening prayer and rehearsal
Sunday, January 28	9:00am –10:30am	Sunday school, Godly Play, Nursery and Adult Forum
	10:00am	Choir and Hospitality
	10:30am	<b>Worship in Sanctuary and Online</b>
Tuesday, January 30	12:45am-2:00pm	Staff Meeting (CR)
Wednesday, January 31	10:15am-12:00pm	Bible Study on Zoom
	5:00pm	Community Meal
	6:00pm-7:00pm	Kids' Choir
	7:00pm	Choir evening prayer and rehearsal

