

The Sentinel

November 2026

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



Honoring the Saints

Pastor Martha

November 1 is All Saints Sunday. It's a day when we especially remember that we are part of a beautiful Spirit-woven community of saints-and-sinners stretching over millennia – across continents and cultures.

As a congregation, we especially remember and lift up the names of those who have died in the last year and those who have been baptized in the last year. The great cloud of witnesses continue to inspire our faithful witness today. And in the eternal life we share with God now and ever, we are always among them. They stay with us.

I wonder whom you are remembering for All Saints. I wonder what grief, hope and gratitude you carry because of them. Whoever they are, and whatever you carry – bring them to the baptismal font on Sunday. There, we will have votive candles to light and a book open for you to add the names of those saints you are holding in memory.

There are two saints I am holding in my heart as we mark All Saints Day: Dr. Bernard Lafayette, Jr. and Karen Clark. Both of these saints died in the last year, and they have made their mark on our ministries at Our Saviour's. We are carriers of their wisdom and legacy.

Dr. Lafayette was a close friend of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. For decades, he carried out King's last 'marching orders' to him to institutionalize and internationalize nonviolence. Pastor Esther and I got to study with him in 2025 in Selma, AL. Dr. Lafayette co-created curriculum that we are now using to train ourselves and our neighbors as we seek to engage present-day struggles through the power and creativity of Love. Kingian Nonviolence is Christian love in action.

Karen Clark was a fierce environmental justice advocate, LGBTQIA+ advocate and organizer who also served in the state legislature for many years representing this neighborhood. She was a trailblazer as the first out lesbian in the state house. Karen authored legislation that designated our area as a Southside Green Zone. Karen also introduced us the leaders of Indigenous Protector Movement (IPM). Without her, our land transfer to IPM would not have happened.

I wonder who you will be remembering as you light a candle this Sunday. Thanks be to God for their life and witness!

Adult Forums for October

Adult forums are in the Hospitality Center at 11am and available live on Zoom unless indicated otherwise. Gather and learn as we grow in our faith and relationships together.

November 1 – Intergenerational Manna & Mercy: Youth and Adults together

The OSLC SNACKS crew (aka, Our 6th – 10th graders who are on a faith journey together) will join adult forum once/month to lead a conversation about Manna and Mercy, an overview of the biblical narrative by Dan Erlander. Our youth will set the table for conversation, and youth will sit among adults so that we can share in conversation about our lives of faith. Together we will read a passage or chapter and wonder together around four central questions.

November 8 – Conversation Time & Election Debrief

Many of us have been involved in prayer protection at mosques on Fridays and in other forms of democracy defense. We are holding this adult forum time to debrief and check in about elections. If the elections turn out to be ‘boring,’ we will simply have connection time.

November 15 – Stewardship: Rooting & Rising Capital Campaign, Planned Giving and Generosity

OSLC members and Rooting & Rising capital campaign steering committee members Cara Herrick (chair), Jim Unglaube and Samantha Heaton will lead a conversation around three topics: a deeper update on our joint capital campaign with Our Saviour's Community Services, education around planned giving strategies and best practices, and insights from fellow members about how they discern and make decisions around giving and generosity. We hope you can join us!

November 22 – Budget Forum and Reparations Team update

A budget is a moral and spiritual document – and our discernment around our budget matters. Our treasurer Nate Blumenshine will lead a conversation about how our 2027 budget is shaping up. Our reparations team will give an update on how our 2026 reparations budget line will be stewarded and invite congregational input. Come and share your questions and input!

November 29 – First Sunday of Advent!

To be determined – likely an Advent activity

Daylight Saving Time Ends Sunday!

At 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 1, clocks go back one hour to 1:00 a.m. Set your clocks back Saturday night and enjoy an extra hour of sleep!

Thank You!

Pastor Esther

These past two weeks have been difficult for Jonah and me. As you may have heard, my mother, Glorianna Sianipar–Naiborhu, affectionately known as Ria, passed away suddenly in Jakarta, Indonesia on Wednesday at 1:12 PM Central Time.

Jonah and I were unable to travel back to Indonesia because of our pending immigration process. However, I was able to participate virtually in the three-day funeral services from October 22–25. My mother was laid to rest on Saturday at 1:00 a.m. Central Time.

She was surrounded by the love and grace of God, along with her children and grandchildren, extended family, friends, and, most importantly, her church community at the Batak Protestant Church (HKBP) in the Rawamangun area of East Jakarta, Indonesia.

I delivered her eulogy via Zoom on the day she was to be buried. That was such a special moment for me because I was able to participate virtually in this important part of my mother's funeral. Being so far away was incredibly difficult, but God's love was present, and my mother remains close to my heart.

I give thanks to God for my mother's life, her unwavering faith, her love, and the legacy she leaves behind. Though the distance kept me from being physically present to say goodbye, she will always remain close to my heart. Thank you for your prayers, beautiful cards and love throughout my grieving time. God be close!

Photo 1: Jonah, my mom, Ria, and me in Jakarta in August 2024.

Photo 2: I sent a condolence flower board on behalf of OSLC for my mother's funeral. In Indonesia, sending flower boards is a common funeral tradition and a way to express condolences, and show love and support for the grieving family.



Quick Property Project Update – Here Comes the Sun!

Pastor Martha

Our solar array is officially going LIVE on November 3. It's very exciting to get to this day!

We will find a way to celebrate.

November 22 is Stewardship Sunday

Pastor Martha

On November 22 at 9:30 worship, the congregation will be invited to make a financial pledge to support our ministries for the coming year. Watch your mail for a mailing coming mid-month that will help you reflect and discern about your giving for the coming year.

Liza Johnson's Ordination – November 15 at 3pm in La Grange, IL

YOU are invited!

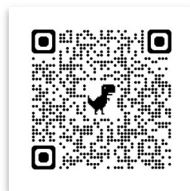
Pastor Martha

Our own Liza Johnson is being ordained to the ministry of Word and Sacrament this month! Liza grew up at OSLC and it has been a joy to witness her grow into her sense of call. She will be serving as Pastor of Faith Formation at Grace Lutheran Church in La Grange, IL. Some of us are traveling down to witness and celebrate with her! Everyone is invited! We will find a way to bring OSLC blessings to Liza on behalf of the whole congregation. And, we hope to bless her in person the next time she comes to OSLC (which may not be for several months).

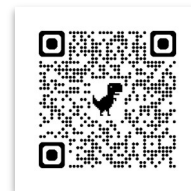
Link to invitation:



Link to RSVP:



Link to livestream of the service:



Mid-Week Advent Gatherings this Advent – Calling for Gracious Hosts

Pastor Martha

Advent is upon us – it begins on November 29. It has been our practice to open our homes to one another during the Advent season. We push 'pause' on Wednesday community meals at church, and we invite one

another into our homes to share food, prayer and conversation as we wait for the One who said “I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”

If you are interested in hosting members in your home, please reach out to one of the pastors. Here are some things to consider:

- Decide what time you’re hosting – we do 5:30 – 7pm at our house
- Let the pastors know what you’re thinking and we’ll let the congregation know they can sign up to come to you
- When you host, share food together. Most gatherings do dinner potlucks – or dessert depending on the time you gather (We make soup and guests bring sides)
- We will provide a guide for you to follow so you can dwell in the Word together

As you discern whether you want to host, I invite you to think, too, of whether or not there might be a neighbor or non-church friend you could invite to your table.

The Wednesdays this year for mid-week gatherings are:

December 2

December 9

December 16

Or, you could choose a different day of the week to host – up to you.

Thanks for considering this holy invitation, and please reach out with your interest or questions. This is a beautiful way to build community, nurture relationships and practice our faith together.

The Stories That Connect Us: A Celebration and Fundraiser for Healing Minnesota Stories! Sunday, November 15, 2026 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM, Westminster Presbyterian

Pastor Martha

Since 2011, Healing Minnesota Stories has brought the voices, experiences, and narratives of Indigenous people into the center of the work of healing justice.

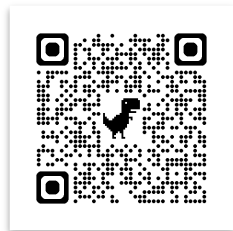
Under the leadership of Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs, Healing Minnesota Stories has led a movement of repair through conversations, concrete action, organizing, and Sacred Sites Tours. In the past 15 years, Jim Bear has led more than 500 tours for close to 15,000 people – the largest tour program of its kind in Minnesota.

What might we make possible if we treated the earth as a living relative? As people committed to climate justice, how are we called to honor the stories of connection that offer us a path towards relationship and healing?

The event will feature good food, good company, and meaningful reflections from local and national leaders

who have been part of this work over the past 15 years. Please join us, bring your friends and family, and consider giving generously to support this work for the next 15 years!

PLEASE USE THE QR CODE TO RSVP:



Mission of the Month

Indigenous Protector Movement (IPM)

Pastor Esther

The Indigenous Protector Movement (IPM) is a grassroots nonprofit organization in our neighborhood dedicated to protecting Indigenous lands and communities through direct action, advocacy, and community building. Its many initiatives focus on community safety, healing and cultural wellness, and justice for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives.

On October 1, we at OSLC joyfully transferred ownership of our “green house” property to IPM. Thanks be to God!

This is one way we live out our commitment to justice and reparation by sharing our resources with marginalized communities like those served by IPM.

Your contributions to IPM are greatly appreciated and warmly welcomed. Thank you for supporting this important work!

Storybook Workshop with Kao Kalia Yang

Saturday, January 16 from 10am-12

Pastor Martha

We will welcome renowned local Hmong author, Kao Kalia Yang on January 16 for a workshop on children’s storybooks. She will share a reading from one of her books and teach us about the process of creating a children’s book. Then, we will have some time for our own creative work with an opportunity to share with one another. It is going to be a special day.

As we get ready to welcome Kao Kalia Yang, we also have an opportunity to do an OSLC book club on her most recent memoir, *Where Rivers Part: A Story of My Mother’s Life*. If you would like to read the book, pick up a copy or reach out to one of the pastors for assistance. Kao Kalia Yang will be happy to sign any books when she is with us.

In December we will share an RSVP for this event. Save the date and stay tuned!

DAILY WORK

Maryellen Skan

Thank you for your generous support of Daily Work as your October Mission of the Month. Your gifts come at a critical time for immigrants and newcomers, as cuts to essential programs and services, changes in immigration policies, and rising costs create additional barriers to stability and opportunity.

More than 35 people attended the October 25 adult forum with Julie Hoff, Daily Work's Executive Director, and Peter Rogness, SPAS Bishop Emeritus and Daily Work Board Member. Peter reflected on how we are at an inflection point in our society, with immigrants at the center of a growing culture war. We briefly explored Scripture's call to welcome the stranger and what it means to live out that calling in today's world.

Our Saviour's helped found Daily Work 25 years ago, and your generosity continues that legacy of welcome, compassion, and commitment to our neighbors. To learn more, visit daily-work.org or talk to Maryellen.



You're Invited! Wopíla 2026 | An Evening of Gratitude at All Nations

Pastor Esther

As Thanksgiving approaches, we would love to invite you to gather with us again for **Wopíla, our Thanksgiving Dinner Church and Evening of Gratitude, on Monday, November 23, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at All Nations Indian Church.**

In Lakota, Wopíla is an expression of deep gratitude, a way of giving thanks to those who have walked alongside us and honoring the relationships that sustain us. For All Nations, this evening is our opportunity to gather with the congregations, ministries, and friends who continue to surround this little church with so much love and support.

Last year's gathering was such a beautiful reminder of what happens when we come together. We shared stories, prayed, laughed, and gathered around tables as relatives. We hope you will join us again this year!

A Thanksgiving Dinner Church

We will gather for an evening of music, storytelling, prayer, gratitude, and, of course, our Stone Soup dinner! Just as we did last year, our meal will be made possible through the gifts of many hands, with bison and

vegetarian soups prepared from ingredients shared by our community.

This year, our gathering will be a little more intimate, with room for 15 Friendship Tables of six people each. For now, we have reserved to host one table for OSLC. If you are interested to attend, please let Pastors Martha or Esther know at the soonest!

A Gathering That Gives Back

Wopíla is also All Nations Indian Church annual opportunity to raise support for their ongoing ministry.

This year, they have a particular need to replace the wooden doors leading into their courtyard. These doors have been identified as unstable and need to be replaced for the safety of those who gather here. Along with this important building need, it will help sustain the daily operations and ministries of All Nations, allowing them to continue being a place of faith, belonging, and care in our community.

They invite each Friendship Table to consider bringing a collective financial gift on behalf of your congregation or organization. There is no set amount. Every gift is meaningful, and every act of generosity helps carry this ministry forward.

Bring a Light to Wopíla

This year, they are inviting each participating congregation or organization to bring a decorated white glass prayer candle.

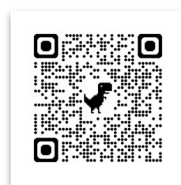
They encourage us to make this a shared activity with your congregation. Invite your youth, elders, families, or ministry groups to decorate a candle that reflects what your community is grateful for, the prayers you carry, and your hopes for the year ahead.

During our Dinner Church, we will bring these candles together as one shared offering of gratitude, remembrance, and hope. Each candle will represent a community, but together they will remind us that none of us carries this work alone.

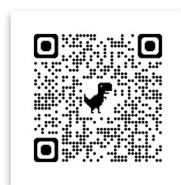
How We Can Participate

- Host a Friendship Table: Gather six people from your congregation or organization and bring a collective financial gift to support All Nations.
- Bring a Prayer Candle: Create a decorated candle with to share during our evening of gratitude.
- Contribute to Stone Soup: Help provide ingredients for our bison or vegetarian soups, bread, desserts, or beverages.
- Lend a Helping Hand: Volunteers are welcome to assist with preparing, serving, setting up, and cleaning up.

Register Your Congregation or Organization:



Sign Up to Contribute Food and Other Donations:



All Nations is deeply grateful for the relationships that have grown over these years, for the ways you have shown up, and for the many ways you continue to help All Nations remain a place of welcome, healing, and belonging. All information is located on our website!

Come to the table. Share a meal. Give thanks. Help carry this ministry forward.



Opportunities to share your gifts

Kent Goodroad

Sound Team Are you interested in helping with sound on Sunday morning? We are working to create a team to support Mike Libby (who is currently our team captain!). If yes, please reach out to either Kent (kent@oursavioursmpls.org) or Alyssa (alyssa@oursavioursmpls.org).

Special Music Would you like to share a special musical selection or prelude on a Sunday morning? Do you play an instrument or sing? If your answer to any of these questions is YES, please reach out to either Kent (kent@oursavioursmpls.org) or Alyssa (alyssa@oursavioursmpls.org).

Time to Shine!

Nate Blumenshine

Whether it was the big equipment and noise on our roof last fall, or the hole in the sidewalk outside the back of the kitchen until just a few weeks ago, I am sure almost everyone has noticed the various evidence of some major work happening on our church building. I am excited to share that we are on the verge of completing the new roof and solar installation project that has been in the works over the last four years.

Back in 2022, we learned that the flat portion of our church roof had reached the end of its useful life. In addition, many portions of the rubber membrane were separating from the roof around the edges creating serious vulnerabilities in the rubber membrane in the event of a storm. While replacing a roof isn't exactly the most exciting way to spend money, we realized that our large, flat rooftop offered an excellent opportunity to put one of OSLC's strategic goals—Creation Care and Climate Justice—into action. Sometimes a necessary repair turns into an exciting opportunity. Thanks to the support of this congregation and a partnership with Solar By Us, we decided to turn our aging roof into a source of renewable energy!

Solar By Us is a small independent solar developer that invests in the upfront costs of solar installations at churches and non-profits in exchange for long-term agreements to buy the electricity generated from the panels. In the case of our church, we have entered into a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Solar By Us. This means the church has agreed to pay slightly under the current cost of electricity from the utility and increases each year based on projected rate increases over time. Solar By Us is able to do this thanks to federal tax incentives and the city of Minneapolis providing OSLC with a \$18,795 grant through its green share program to support the installation cost. All in all, this means that we expect to actually save a little on electricity cost long-term, while also generating a portion of our energy usage 100% carbon free!

After considerable research and planning, Sela installed our new roof in September 2025. The total cost was \$122,700. With Solar By Us contributing \$45,000 toward the additional work necessary to make the roof solar-ready, OSLC covered the remaining \$77,700, including with a \$40,000 low interest loan generously provided by the OSLC Foundation. With the roof ready, Apadana installed the solar panels earlier this spring. The original solar proposal estimated that the system could generate more than one-third of the church's electricity needs. That's a lot of sunshine put to good use! Once operational, we will keep the church updated on how much electricity the panels are producing and the associated reduction in greenhouse gasses that help demonstrate our commitment to caring for God's creation.

Of course, no construction project would be complete without a few surprises. While the panels have been installed for several months, connecting them to the electrical grid and preparing the system to be battery ready has taken longer than anticipated. Solar By Us has been an exceptional partner, covering several meaningful unexpected costs such as moving the metering box and other electrical and permitting work. The good news? Final connection is expected any day now! We are also continuing to work to add battery storage to this system with Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light in the next year or two.

A heartfelt thank you goes to our church staff, especially Marcin who facilitated all of the many onsite aspects of this project, Pastor Martha for her role in pulling together many different groups within and outside our church to make this happen. A big thank you also to Eric Jensen from Solar By Us, who worked through an incredible amount of hurdles to secure funding for the project as well as the city of Minneapolis for providing direct support. Special thanks to the OSLC Foundation for providing critical financial support, and to the entire congregation for its generosity, encouragement, and commitment to our church's future.

What started as a necessary roof replacement has become something much bigger: an investment in our building, our congregation, and God's creation. Let it shine!



Reparations in Action: Land, Relationships, and Healing

Aneesa Parks

Our Saviour's Reparations Team is completing its fourth cycle of reparations, continuing a journey of truth-telling, relationship-building, and taking action to repair harms rooted in our church's history and the broader legacy of colonialism and racial injustice. For us, reparations is not simply about giving money. It is about listening, learning, building relationships, and using the resources entrusted to our congregation to help create a more just future.

LandBack Becomes a Reality On October 1, a significant milestone in our reparations journey became reality: the transfer of property to the Indigenous Protector Movement. This Indigenous-led organization, founded by descendants and relatives of American Indian Movement founders, is now entrusted with property that includes the double lot adjacent to our church and a triplex. This transfer represents a meaningful step toward healing our relationship with Indigenous relatives and rethinking what faithful stewardship of land can look like.

The LandBack movement calls for more than the return of land. At its heart is sovereignty and self-governance—restoring Indigenous peoples' authority to make decisions about their lands, resources, and communities. It also calls for ecological stewardship, recognizing the wisdom of Indigenous knowledge and practices in caring for the earth, protecting biodiversity, and healing land harmed by industrialization and colonialism. And it supports cultural reconnection, restoring access to places of cultural and spiritual significance and strengthening the languages, traditions, and relationships with the land that sustain Indigenous communities.

By transferring this property, our congregation is taking a concrete step toward these goals. We recognize that this action does not erase past harms or complete the work of repair. Rather, it opens a new chapter—one that we hope will bring continued healing, learning, and connection to our congregation and the wider community.

Expanding Our Understanding of Reparations As we continue to deepen relationships with our Native relatives, the Reparations Team is also exploring another part of our history: the extraction of wealth and land through agricultural systems that have harmed Black and Latino farmers. The loss of land, barriers to land ownership, and inequities in access to resources have had lasting consequences for families and communities.

Through relationship-building this summer, we have begun learning about organizations and strategies working to repair these harms and strengthen more equitable food systems. Interesting and hopeful possibilities are emerging, and our team is exploring how Our Saviour's can contribute in ways that are grounded in listening, partnership, and meaningful action.

We invite members of the congregation to join us in this learning. Understanding how land is owned, used, and connected to food can help us see new opportunities to practice justice, care for creation, and build relationships across our community.

Sharing What We Learn Reparations is not work we undertake alone. We are sharing our experiences and lessons with other congregations interested in exploring what repair might mean in their own contexts.

On November 8, members of our team will visit Bethel Lutheran Church in Northfield to share our journey. Pastor Martha and Aneesa also recently participated in an ELCA webinar with churches from across the country, contributing to a growing conversation about how congregations can move from acknowledging historical harms to taking meaningful action.

How We Are Using Our 2026 Reparations Budget Our congregation allocated \$18,000 for reparations in the 2026 budget. As we look toward our next cycle, the Reparations Team recommends continuing our reparative commitments to the East Phillips Neighborhood Institute, All Nations Indian Church, and the Indigenous Protector Movement. We also recommend renewing our relationship with the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition, whose work supports truth, healing, and accountability for the harms of Native American boarding schools. Building on relationships developed this summer, we recommend establishing new partnerships focused on repairing harms in the food system, particularly those experienced by Black, Indigenous, and other people of color (BIPOC) farmers. Together, these priorities reflect our commitment to sustaining existing relationships while listening for new opportunities to make repair possible. Specific allocations will be shared on November 22 at the Budget Forum.

Join Us in the Work There are opportunities for everyone at Our Saviour's to participate in this ongoing journey.

Join us at The Good Acre on October 26, from 10–11 a.m., to learn more about food systems and explore how our congregation might participate in repairing past harms to farmers of color. Contact Aneesa Parks for more information at AneesaMParks@gmail.com.

Reparations is a continuing practice of faith: telling the truth about the past, building relationships in the present, and using our resources to help create a more just future. We are grateful for the congregation's willingness to walk this path together. We can always use more team members too. Contact us if you are interested in joining the team.

I'm your Racial Justice Liaison: what that means (especially as a new member to OSLC)

Alyssa Lund-Kyrola

For those of you I haven't met, my name is Alyssa (she/her) and I live in Longfellow! My family are new members to OSLC - my partner's name is Tyler, and you may have seen our daughter Juniper get baptised at church in June 2025. We became members last fall, and have felt incredibly welcomed in this community.

I felt especially welcomed when Pastor Esther asked if I would consider becoming our church's Racial Justice Liaison last winter. Our synod was restarting a group to connect on racial justice work, with churches sending representatives and meeting quarterly for discussion and reflection.

To be completely honest, I initially considered saying no.

I felt hesitant to represent our congregation as such a new member – after all, I'm still learning about our church, and getting to know people. I don't feel that it's entirely my place to bring new ideas to OSLC while I'm still getting the lay of the land and learning about what we are already doing in our racial justice work. And yet, as I thought about it more, I also was deeply touched that one of our pastors would even ask such a

new member to take on a role like this. It speaks to a sense of trust that feels really new and meaningful to me.

It feels pretty different than the church I grew up in - a very very large ELCA congregation in a suburb, where I was happy to attend but was very much an anonymous member. No one really noticed if I was there or not.

But when I come to church here, I feel very seen. Folks I've only spoken to once before remember me! People I've never met before recognize my toddler! People notice when we are here (and when we are not), and there's a vulnerability to that in some ways. As a new member, I find myself learning that I am being offered a church experience that is so much deeper than just showing up. I am being asked to participate, to contribute to the community, to be active and care in a much deeper way than I honestly ever have in a church before.

And while that's a little intimidating, I also think that's incredibly beautiful.

I think that's how church should be.

Not a place to just show up, but a community to take an active, personal role in. A place to learn from, and a place to give to.

And honestly, that's why Tyler and I chose OSLC when we were looking for a community to be part of as our daughter was born. We wanted to be part of this church because it felt personal and warm and reflective - we felt welcomed, sincerely, from our first visit. And we wanted to be a part of this church because every time we attend, the music and sermon and announcements (and even just conversation with other folks) always centered deeper issues.

The reason we are members here is because this church talks about politics, about keeping our neighbors safe, about how our congregation fits into the context of our neighborhood and our city and our country and our world.

Basically, I'm here at OSLC because our church is working on racial justice.

And so, even though I felt intimidated by my newness, I said yes to Pastor Esther and took on this role.

I've attended a couple of these meetings so far. We're talking about our individual experiences and reflections on race, what we notice in our congregations with various efforts to work towards racial justice, discussing challenges that different churches are experiencing, sharing ideas.

At this point, I'm doing my best to speak from my heart and to share what I'm learning about at OSLC, while also naming that I'm new and cannot speak for the entire congregation. I've met with Pastor Esther to learn more about what racial justice work has been happening at our church already so that I can understand where we are currently, and I'm looking forward to being in conversation with many of you, or various tables at church, anytime that this conversation can be useful. More than anything, I'm trying not to view myself as a person who is here to 'fix' anything, but rather a person to hold space for these important conversations.

If this is something that you care about as well (or if you'd ever be willing to be a backup/sub for me if I'm unable to attend a meeting), you are very welcome to reach out to me - my email address is

alyssajlund@gmail.com.

Looking forward to more conversations in the future!

A Saturday Morning Tradition: Sharing the Gift of Showing Up

An invitation to accompany Cam Rogers and her daughter, Elisabeth

Deb Swanson-Klatt

Some of the most beautiful expressions of church happen beyond our walls, in ordinary gatherings where people show up for one another. A shared meal, a familiar table, a friendly greeting—these seemingly small things can become powerful expressions of love, belonging, and grace.

For Cam Rogers, a longtime member of our community, Saturday mornings have long been devoted to time with her daughter, Elisabeth, who lives in a residential group home in Waconia, Minnesota. Elisabeth has a developmental disability and uses a wheelchair. She is deeply loved by Cam and by her late husband, Paul, who died in 2024. Over many decades, Cam and Paul nurtured a Saturday tradition of visiting Elisabeth and taking her out for breakfast.

As Cam and Paul grew older and faced their own physical limitations, they invited others into this cherished routine. A community of volunteers began helping with the drive to Waconia, picking Elisabeth up, and accompanying the family to breakfast. Now, as Cam continues this tradition, we have an opportunity to sustain this circle of care.

One of the heartwarming parts of the story is Egg-Cetera Cafe, the local diner where Elisabeth's Saturday visits have become a familiar ritual. A table for four is waiting for her. The waitstaff know the family, and friendly greetings are common. This is more than a breakfast outing. It is a place where Elisabeth is known, welcomed, and included—a place made special by years of relationships lovingly built and maintained by Cam and Paul.

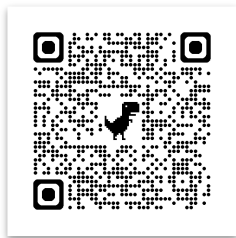
This is the kind of community care we seek to practice at Our Saviour's. We experience Jesus' healing power in ordinary gatherings and accompany one another through life's joys, vulnerabilities, and changing needs. Sometimes that care takes the form of a meal, a ride, or a few hours of our Saturday morning. Sometimes it means joining a tradition that has been nurtured over decades and helping it continue.

Mary Borgen coordinates this unique volunteer opportunity, connecting people who can help with the practical needs of Saturday mornings. Volunteers work best in pairs, sharing the responsibilities and the joy of the outing. Volunteers need a vehicle that can accommodate Cam, Elisabeth, and Elisabeth's wheelchair, as well as the physical ability to assist Elisabeth with the outing and with eating breakfast. More detailed information about the schedule, directions, and what to expect is available through the volunteer survey. You don't need to know Cam or Elisabeth already to join this circle of care. You simply need a willingness to build a relationship, offer your time, and help someone continue doing something deeply meaningful. If you are able to volunteer once a month, every other month, or every three months, please consider signing up. You can volunteer with a partner or let us know if you'd like to be paired with someone. If you're interested but have questions, you can also indicate that you'd like to talk with Mary, the person coordinating this opportunity, or Cam before deciding.

In a world that often measures abundance by what we accumulate, this Saturday tradition reminds us of another way to live: sharing what we have, receiving the gifts of relationship, and making sure no one has to journey alone. We don't always need to build something new. Sometimes we are invited simply to help keep a beautiful thing going.

Thanks be to God for the gifts of community, companionship, and the grace we encounter when we show up for one another.

Interested in helping? Please complete the short volunteer survey, use the QR Code below. You can express interest, learn more, and let us know how often you might be able to participate.



Stories from the **Green Team** Part 4: What is a Thermal Energy Network and other FAQ

Hello from the Green Team! We have been hard at work over the past year in support of OSLC's strategic goal to care for creation and support climate justice. This is the fourth in a series of articles sharing what we have been up to and inviting you to join the conversation. -Sharon, Ethan, Amy, Joel, Seth, and Pastor Martha.

What is the status of the church's current HVAC system?

In September, we mentioned that the church's HVAC system is considered "end of life." This means the estimated end date range for our systems is 2020-2030. We replaced an air conditioner in 2024 and frequently need repairs. The good news is that our systems are still fixable when problems arise and our 80% gas furnaces are still considered "state of the art" for our building configuration (also good news that parts are still available if needed!). We continue to investigate like-for-like replacement and energy efficiency upgrades even while researching geothermal options.

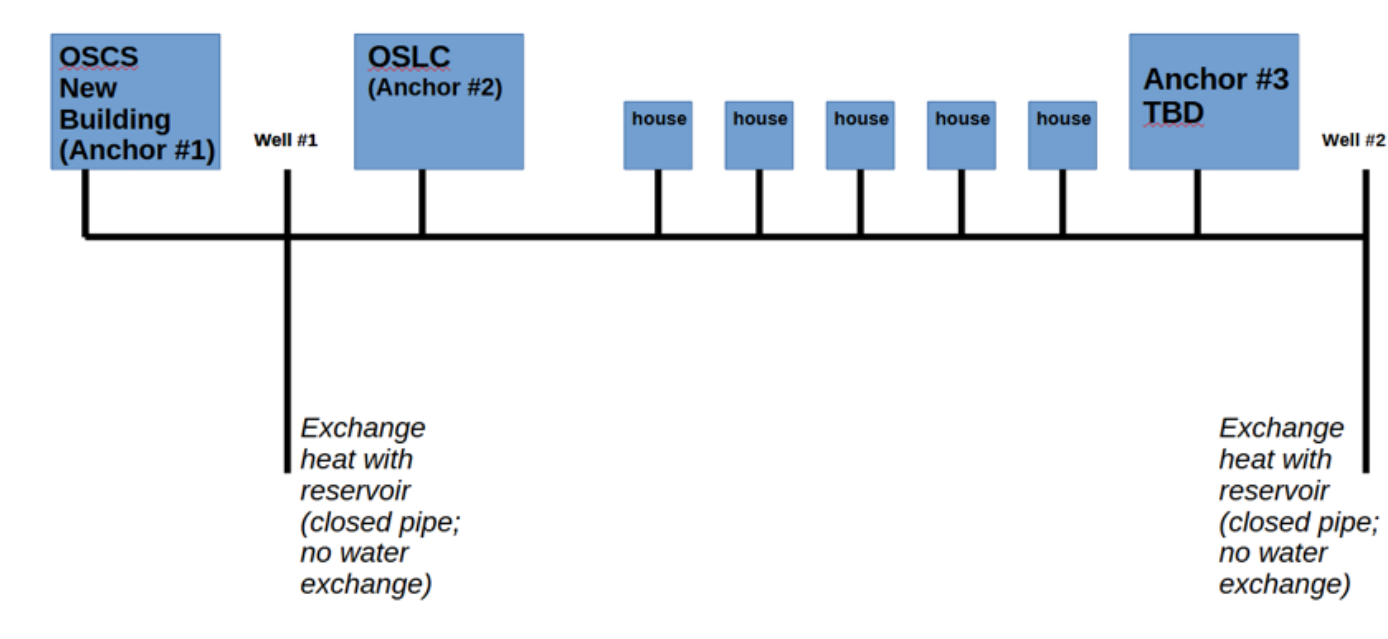
What have we learned about upgrading the church to geothermal heating and cooling?

Geothermal heating and cooling is an approach that uses the stable temperature of the ground beneath our feet as a source and sink of heat to exchange with our building and provide efficient and low-carbon heating and cooling. A feasibility study done by the City of Minneapolis and Salas O'Brien found that our building could

avoid 65% of our current carbon emissions with a geothermal system, in line with our climate goals. At the same time, we have found the technical, legal, and financial barriers to be difficult to overcome.

What is a Thermal Energy Network (TEN)?

A shared network of water-filled pipes that transfer heat in and out of buildings and the ground via geothermal wells. No water is exchanged, just heat. For example, OSLC and OSCS could share 1 geothermal well. TENs become more efficient the larger they get; an efficient scale for a pilot network ideally would include 1-3 additional “anchor” sites alongside OSLC and OSCS. With a network of this size we could share our abundance of clean energy with many of our residential neighbors as well.



Who is Cooperative Energy Futures (CEF)?

CEF is a member-owned co-op that makes clean energy accessible to residents and communities historically excluded from the green energy transition. You may already be familiar with their work in community solar. CEF is sponsoring geothermal pilot projects and is interested in building a pilot TEN in the Southside Green Zone, where we are located. CEF provides the capital outlay for the geothermal wells and piping, to support low-cost energy transition. Large anchor users like OSLC & OSCS can additionally receive lease revenue by hosting geothermal wells.

Didn't we just receive a Minneapolis Foundation grant for this work? What is it for?

Yes! We are so excited to receive support in this effort. We have done some initial outreach and have strong relationships in the neighborhood already, but with the high-context and novel nature of exploring a possible geothermal network and with other urgent neighborhood issues competing for our attention, we have struggled to connect. This winter is a key decision-making time for us to see if we can move forward with this TEN. If we can gather building data from 1-3 other potential anchor users (no commitment to the project is required, just interest), CEF will fund an energy analysis of the network as a whole. The grant funds we received will be used for community engagement (done by Sharon and other neighborhood partners) and to convene neighborhood meetings so we can identify 1-3 more anchor sites for a Southside Green Zone TEN.

Support “Home for the Holidays” Gift Bags This Winter

Zoe Meyers

This holiday season, **Our Saviour's Community Services (OSCS)** is collecting “Home for the Holidays” Gift Bags for residents in our Permanent Supportive Housing Program.

This year's gift bags will focus on **Cleaning Supplies & Winter Essentials**. Each bag will include:

- 1 pair of new winter mittens or sturdy winter gloves
- 1 new winter hat
- Multipurpose cleaner spray with bleach
- Disinfectant wipes or spray
- Toilet bowl cleaner
- 2 Magic Erasers
- A **\$40 gift card** (Visa, Cub, or Target preferred)
- A durable reusable grocery bag to hold all items

To ensure fairness and equity for all residents, please include only the items listed above. Our goal is to provide 110 gift bags, and we are hoping to collect all gift bags by December 17, 2026.

If you are interested in helping, please fill out this form: "Home for the Holidays" Gift Bags Sign-Up (2026) – Fill out form. Contact Zoe Meyers at volunteer@oscs-mn.org or 612-386-6626 with any questions.

Thank you for helping make the holiday season a little brighter for our neighbors in supportive housing.



Learning from ancestors to hate war

By Deacon Dr. Amy Blumenshine

Our calendar brings a confluence of remembrance/conscience days: Reformation Day with its promotion of reformation and speaking truth to power, All Saints Day as we remember the wisdom and values/intentions of our ancestors, Election day with its demand for responsible citizenship, and Armistice/Veterans Day Nov. 11, also called Remembrance Day.

My dad was among the many who participated in the fight against fascism. Like many veterans, those few years shaped his remaining decades. He and his family paid a real cost that I'm sure he, now in the other realm, regrets. I've known many other children of veterans who experienced "Commander Daddy" when family life became stressed. Of course, many suffered much worse and some perhaps not at all.

In discussing veterans issues, it's always important to remember the wide variety of experiences veterans have had along with the differences in resources to deal with those experiences. Yet it is absolutely true that an organization oriented towards "breaking things and killing people" (according to their current leader) clearly has serious impact. People must be hard-trained --drilled --to override their deeply held principles. And terroristic punishment, like death by firing squad, is threatened for those who disobey.

Nevertheless, a military review in the aftermath of WWII showed that most military never shot to kill. And that led to finding similar evidence in prior wars-- for instance, Civil War muskets where the bullets never left the gun. Because of that finding, the training has been changed to be more "realistic" about killing. I saw targets for MN National Guard shooting practice that appeared to be a woman possibly holding a baby. The image was similar to an icon of the mother of Jesus. I note that the incidence of suicide among veterans has increased dramatically since the training changed.

Current research shows the impact of moral injury, including the disproportionately diminished lives of those veterans who have killed. But that the moral injury of killing has been long known is shown in the typical composition of a firing squad. Amongst the multiple guns fired, one will have a "dummy" round. This is called the "conscience round." That dummy round might be in any of the guns so the individuals firing can hold to the idea of not personally being responsible for the killing. I suspect that firing to kill a man in a wheelchair, as is planned for Dec. 3, might be particularly challenging.

Vietnam veteran and therapist/author Larry Winters wants people to know: When you kill somebody, it can take a long time for that to enter your dreams and psyche, but there's no way to escape it. You never lose responsibility; you have to learn to forgive.

Let us remember the words of the Singing Resistance who sang to those federal agents using violence to destroy families and terrorize children: Change your mind. Join us on the other side. I call it the side of humanity, the better life lived, and yes, Christianity. Keep that in mind, for those who may be considering joining the military or are vulnerable to conscription.

Too many veterans find that they've been part of creating a world that they can't stand to live in. Too many taxpayers for war have become desensitized to our responsibility for their suffering and for the massive death and destruction of war. On November 11, let us recognize the wisdom of the World War I veterans from the trenches who urged us: Remember the dead. Don't glorify War.

Upcoming free opportunity "Armistice Day Eve," November 10 at the Cowles Auditorium, Humphrey Institute, University of Minnesota, 301 19th Ave South, Minneapolis. A number of retired intelligence/defense experts will discuss "Armistice or Armageddon? Blowback: How perpetual & illegal wars might follow us home and how we might avoid the worst." Two panels, one 4-5:30 pm and the other 6:30-8 pm with a reception between. Sponsored by Women Against Military Madness and the Eisenhower Media Network.

Women's Retreat Coming in February

Nancy Nygaard Johnson

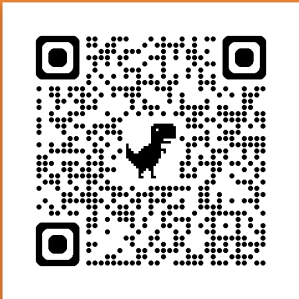
Mark your calendars for the annual Our Saviour's/Valley of Peace Women's retreat, scheduled for Feb 19th-21st. We will return to Dunrovin Retreat Center on the St Croix River. More information on the retreat and sign up will be coming by January.

November Hospitality and Ushering Volunteers

Jeanne Heer

Hospitality will be at 10:30AM after worship.

This month's volunteers are members whose last name begins with C through G. If this includes you, please sign up for a couple slots on the QR Code.



If you have questions please contact the Team Leaders:

November Team	Team Leaders
Last names C-G	Jeanne Heer heerjm@gmail.com Dave Comstock dwcomstock57@gmail.com



Lectionary Text for Home Devotions

November 1

Revelation 7:9-17
Psalm 34:1-10, 22
1 John 3:1-3
Matthew 5:1-12

November 8

Amos 5:18-24
Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16
(alternate)
Psalm 70
Wisdom of Solomon 6:17-20
(alternate)
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

November 15

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30

November 22

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 95:1-7a
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46

November 29

Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37

How to Reach Us

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oursavioursmpls.org

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OSCS

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Executive Director:

Michael Huffman option 1

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PRAYER LIST

Pastor Jen Collins will be having a medical procedure on Monday (11/2). Please pray for the procedure to go well.

Pastor Esther's mother Ria passed away suddenly in Jakarta. Please pray for Pastor Esther, Jonah, and their family as they grieve and give thanks to God for Ria's life.

Mary Thurow is doing well with her medical treatment. Please continue to pray for strength and healing for her liver. Also pray for her husband, John Thurow, and caregiver, that he too may have strength, endurance, and joy as a caregiver to Mary.

Students and adults in France are protesting their government for the right to a quality education in a safe environment and no more funding cuts. Pray for students, teachers, children and adults for strength and endurance to advocate for the wellbeing of the children and education.

Brazil is currently fighting for a free fair election. Unfortunately forces such as tech giant Facebook, and Trump administration support the alt-right challenger to their current government. Pray for the people and the current government in Brazil to conduct a free fair election.

Stevensen's neighbor Jenn, a single mom with stage 4 liver cancer that has metastasized. The kids' dad died two years ago of a heart attack. Please pray for Jenn, her kids and her family for healing and comfort.

Angela !Khabeb is recovering well but slowly. She is home. Please pray for her strength, and for Benhi, Khonam, Khenna and Khonni.

Pam Wurster's surgery was on October 8. She is now healing at home. Please pray for Pam and Sandy at this time.

Pray for the safety of our immigrant neighbors. Pray for our Somali neighbors and those who are standing by mosques to protect them especially approaching the midterm election.

Lawrence Johnson, Hawah Borbor's grandson, was deported to Liberia. Pray for Lawrence's family here - his 2-year-old, his mom Kema, Hawah, and all who miss him so. And pray for Lawrence experiencing stress of this new beginning of his life away from his family. May God protect, strengthen and guide him.

Martha and Fayez Farchat, Cindy Devereaux's cousins, living in southern Beirut, Lebanon. Pray for safety as they live in the center where attacks are occurring.

Marilyn Preus, Mary Preus's mother, is in hospice. Pray for peace, joy, and loving support during this tender time.

Pray for our city—its leaders, pastors, lay leaders, medical teams, educators, families, and children—for healing and resilience.

Paul Hnath, for strength and endurance.

Pray for an end to gun violence and all kinds of violence in our neighborhood and globally, and for the safety and well-being of young children and youth during this difficult and divided political world.

Our unhoused neighbors, who are spread out, seek shelter, mental health and stable housing.

Bruce Bakke is undergoing treatment for prostate cancer - pray for healing and strength

Pray for our LGBTQIA2S+ siblings that they find the restoration of a community, justice and equity in this divided world.

Peace and justice in Venezuela, Israel and Palestine, Iran, Lebanon, Ukraine, Sudan, the United States, and around the world. May the global economy and conflict be reconciled with the needs of people.

Those who have lost their jobs or are looking for jobs may they find strength, hope, and confidence as they seek new opportunities.

For our members working in government during these challenging times: Deb Swenson-Klatt, Tal Anderson, Nate Blumenshine, Ken Lewis (in county government), those working in city governments, and our teachers and school administrators.

Those experiencing mental illness, isolation, and anxiety especially for Mateo Baumgartner, son of Ralph, and our loved ones struggling with mental illness.

Carolyn Green is recovering from chemotherapy and prays to remain cancer-free.

Noah, son of Bruce Pederson, is experiencing vasculitis and is responding well to cancer treatment.

Erica Larson, a dear friend of Tal Anderson and a colleague of Pastors Martha and Esther in the synod, undergoing treatment for stage 4 breast cancer and is doing well.

Julia Klatt Singer, sister of Dan Swenson-Klatt, is still recovering after a hit-and-run accident. She is back at

November at OSLC

Sunday, November 1	9am	Choir (Sanctuary)
	9:30am	Worship in Sanctuary and Online
	10:30am	Hospitality (HC)
	11am	Faith Formation all ages
Tuesday, November 3	4pm-6pm	GMCC: Caring Community Weekly Dinner (1100 East Lake Street)
Wednesday, November 4	8:30am-9:30am	Donuts at the Bus Stop (DABS)
	10:15am-12pm	Bible Study in Person and on Zoom
	11:30pm	Staff Meeting
	5:30pm	Community Meal (HC)
	6:15pm	Gospel of Mark Lab
Friday, November 6	7:15pm	Choir (Sanctuary)
	7am	Men's Breakfast
Saturday, November 7	9am-noon	Quilting (HC)
Sunday, November 8	9am	Choir (Sanctuary)
	9:30am	Worship in Sanctuary and Online
	10:30am	Hospitality (HC)
	11am	Faith Formation all ages
Tuesday, November 10	12:45pm-2pm	Staff Meeting (CR)
	4pm-6pm	GMCC: Caring Community Weekly Dinner (1100 East Lake Street)
Wednesday, November 11	8:30am-9:30am	Donuts at the Bus Stop (DABS)
	10:15am-12pm	Bible Study in Person and on Zoom
	5:30pm	Community Meal (HC)
	6:15pm	Gospel of Mark Lab
	7:15pm	Choir (Sanctuary)
Sunday, November 15	9am	Choir (Sanctuary)
	9:30am	Worship in Sanctuary and Online
	10:30am	Hospitality (HC)
	11am	Faith Formation all ages
Tuesday, November 16	12:45pm-2pm	Staff Meeting
	4pm-6pm	GMCC: Caring Community Weekly Dinner (1100 East Lake Street)

Wednesday, November 18	8:30am-9:30am	Donuts at the Bus Stop (DABS)
	10:15am-12pm	Bible Study in Person and on Zoom
	5:30pm	Community Meal (HC)
	6:15pm	Gospel of Mark Lab
	7:15pm	Choir (Sanctuary)
Saturday, November 21	9am-noon	Quilting (HC)
Sunday, November 22	9am	Choir (Sanctuary)
	9:30am	Worship in Sanctuary and Online
	10:30am	Hospitality (HC)
	11am	Faith Formation all ages
	12pm-12:45pm	Synod Youth Choir (HC and Sanctuary)
Tuesday, November 24	12:45pm-2pm	Staff Meeting
	4pm-6pm	GMCC: Caring Community Weekly Dinner (1100 East Lake Street)
Wednesday, November 25	8:30am-9:30am	Donuts at the Bus Stop (DABS)
	10:15am-12pm	Bible Study in Person and on Zoom
Thursday, November 26		Thanksgiving
Sunday, November 29	9am	Choir (Sanctuary)
	9:30am	Worship in Sanctuary and Online
	10:30am	Hospitality (HC)
	11am	Faith Formation all ages