

## Christmas at Our Savior's

### Christmas Eve worship – Dec. 24

Holy Communion and Candlelight  
3:30 p.m. – Celebrate Center and Sanctuary  
5:30 p.m. – Sanctuary  
10:00 p.m. – Sanctuary

### Christmas Day worship – Dec. 25

Holy Communion  
9:30 a.m. – Sanctuary

### New Year's Day worship – Jan. 1

5:00 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 31  
8:45 a.m. – Celebrate Center  
11:00 a.m. – Sanctuary  
(No Sunday School)

## From Congregation President Brian Sittig

OSL members received a letter from our senior pastor, Les Svendsen, announcing his retirement in January, and, as he said in his sermon on, Nov. 20, many of you might be wondering, "What next?"

First and foremost, the Executive Committee would like to thank Pr. Les for his committed and excellent service to Our Savior's these past ten years. While we will miss his leadership and presence when he retires, we are also happy and excited that he and Carolyn can retire and spend more time with their children and grandchildren and, of course, spend more time in Arizona. We will make plans to ensure that all members of Our Savior's will have ample opportunities to say thanks and celebrate with Pr. Les in his retirement.

Next, the Executive Committee already has consulted with Bishop David Zellmer about the

steps to take. **The Congregation Council has called a special meeting of the congregation on Sunday, Dec. 18, at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary to authorize the Council to appoint an interim senior pastor and form a call committee to recommend a candidate for senior pastor.**

The call process will include open meetings with members of the congregation to hear their thoughts and to keep members informed. Members also will be invited to suggest candidates. The process at this point is not set in stone and will finally be shaped by the committee itself when it is formed.

How does one get on such a call committee? They could submit their names to me for consideration or someone could nominate a person for consideration. In either case, it should be stated why one might like to serve on the committee

and any experience they may have had with a call committee.

I have served on three call committees at OSL and have found them to be very satisfying experiences. However, persons interested should be aware that serving on a call committee is a commitment and can be time-consuming. It will involve regular meetings to review candidates' papers, to interview candidates, and to make visits to hear candidates preach. The time commitment can be anywhere from several months to a year. The committee ultimately will make a recommendation to the Congregation Council and the congregation. The decision to extend a call to a specific pastor is made by the congregation and requires approval by a two-thirds vote.

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions or suggestions.

## Year-End Giving Matters

If you have not turned in a 2012 Intent for Giving card, indicating your financial support for the mission and ministry of OSL in 2012, please do so by the end of the year. Cards were mailed to all members; cards also are available at the Information Center on Sunday mornings or at the Church Office during the week. Those who choose not to write in a specific amount, should write "I will give as able" on the card and return it. A prompt reply will free the Stewardship Board from further follow-up.

In order for contributions to be tax deductible on federal tax returns for 2011 (for those who itemize), they must be dated 2011 and received in the Church Office, or postmarked, by Dec. 31, 2011.

Persons 70½ years of age or older who wish to take advantage of the IRS provision allowing for contribution to a qualified charity directly from their IRA can do that until Dec. 31, when the provision expires. Such a distribution can count toward the donor's required minimum distribution, but is not considered as income for taxable purposes. Those considering this should consult their tax adviser.

## Pastor Svendsen Announces Retirement



Pastor Les Svendsen

Pr. Les Svendsen, who will complete 10 years as senior pastor of OSL in January, announced in a letter to the congregation that he will retire, and that his last Sunday at OSL will be Jan. 8. He said in his letter, "It has been a privilege to be your pastor and to serve with you in the name of our

Lord. I will miss you and being your pastor.

"On the other hand, it is time. I will celebrate my 69<sup>th</sup> birthday before the year is over. I have two delightful pre-school granddaughters in St. Paul; I would like to be more a part of their lives. I have a dear, understanding wife to whom I owe a whole lot of time (although, when I'm around all day, day after day, she well may rue the day I retired!). And I would like to take advantage of a house we have in Arizona."

Congregation president Brian Sittig said that a reception in honor of Pr. Les and Carolyn will be held on Sunday afternoon, Jan. 8. Watch for more specifics to come.

## More or Less: Trying to Make in Clear

Two town meetings were held several weeks ago to look at proposals to make the chancel/worship space in the Sanctuary more flexible by using movable wooden modules. There seemed to be several misconceptions floating around the room that were not entirely cleared up.

To help do that, the Chancel Task Force will hold several listening/information sessions during December and January, before a formal proposal comes before the annual meeting Jan. 29. I'll make

a couple of comments here from a personal and pastoral point of view.

First, movable modules would make the space more flexible for worship and other uses, such as children's musicals, dramas, orchestral and choral performances for OSL choirs, Augustana College, and other visiting groups. Modules (4'x4') can be arranged in multiple configurations for a variety of uses.

*Continued on page 2*

## More or Less: Trying to Make in Clear *Continued*

Second, the major benefit to Our Savior's would be to make our Sanctuary worship space more intimate by bringing worship leaders and worshipers closer together (in the present arrangement, there is a considerable chasm between the pastor and worshipers). Modules could be arranged to make a platform about 12' by 24', on which the pulpit and communion table would be located, coming from the chancel about 24 feet into the nave. This would put Word and Sacrament in the midst of the congregation instead of at the end. Drawings of various arrangements showing this will be available at the listening/information meetings.

Third, this does not mean the OSL choir would sing from the chancel, although modular arrangements would make that possible and there might be occasions when they would. OSL choir director Jeanne Carter tells me that every time the choir does sing from the chancel, people ask her why they can't do it more often.

Fourth, there is no cost to Our Savior's. Costs would be covered by a gift given to Augustana College for

a project that would benefit both Our Savior's and Augustana. The donor's goal is to encourage cooperative ventures between OSL and Augie.

Fifth, it is OSL's space. We would be in control of how and when the space is used. If Augustana, for example, wanted to use the space for an orchestra concert, they would check with us about available dates and times and schedule accordingly, as Augustana has done over the years for various uses. They have been a wonderful, cooperative, accommodating partner with Our Savior's during the years I've been here, allowing us to use their space when it is available, just as OSL allows them to use our space when it is available.

Sixth, use of modules to enhance

our worship space and to make the space more flexible means there would be a minimum of permanent changes. In the proposal, the pulpit would be moved, the screen behind the pulpit changed, and the communion rail removed (the arrangement with the modules has provisions for communion rails). The

architectural character of the chancel area, including the marble altar and the ascension mural, would remain unchanged. Referring to the use of modules and minimal permanent changes, architect Steve Edwins said, "If people decide 25 years from now that want to put things back the way they were in 2011, they can do it very easily."

The Chancel Task Force recommends this project. The Council endorses it. The pastors of OSL are very much in favor of it because of what it can do for worship. The music staff of OSL likes it for its many possibilities for worship and musical presentations. I strongly encourage you to attend one of the listening/information sessions to find out more about this, to see drawings up close and more clearly, and to discuss your questions and concerns. It's a low risk project with the possibility of great benefit to OSL.

Thanks for your openness and consideration.

God love you!

*Leslie G. Svendsen*  
Pr Les Svendsen

## WELCA - OSL Women of the ELCA, by Carolyn Pesicka

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6). Because Jesus lives we have these words from him: "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world ... I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them" (John 18:24, 26). Amazing Love! Our King, who came and died and rose again for you and me. May we each comprehend and receive our Christmas Blessings.

An article in the December issue of *GATHER for Faith and Action*, "Faithful Anna," inspires me with thoughts to share with the many matriarchs of OSL who embody the "holy aging," a term coined by the article's author, Linda Post Bushkofsky. There is many an Anna in our midst. Though aged, each one gives her life to the church, continuing in prayer and service to God and the church. Though bodies weaken, faith and perseverance continue. The meaning of the name Anna is *grace*. Citing words from "Faithful Anna": These matriarchs "approach their advanced years with strength and style, supporting younger generations as they mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ." Thank you, matriarchs of OSL. Younger

generations, take notice!

Just a day or two after this issue of *The InterCom* reaches you, WELCA will be having its December luncheon. This will be a wonderful time of sharing food and fellowship, fun and blessing. Tom Roberts and the Master's Voice Quartet will be presenting a long-anticipated program after the luncheon, which will be served at 11:30 a.m.

This is the last article I will write as co-leader of OSL's Women of the ELCA. Thank you to the faithful women who have attended functions, worked – and worked some more – shared and given, encouraged and prayed. So many have touched my life through their exquisite faith and unwavering faithfulness, through their wisdom and generosity, through encouraging words and smiles. I am grateful for each of these women and can only say, "Thank you to each and every one of you."

I cannot close without encouraging each of you to look to the bounty that may be yours, and then look to the need of the world around you. Then decide how you will share from your bounty with joyous abandon! The world conditions us to amass money; Christ teaches us to give generously. The world shows us pride in power, possessions, and position. Christ teaches us humility, submission to God the Father, and love for others above our own comfort and safety.

In connection with these thoughts, again citing from December's *GATHER*, in an article titled "Do

Not Be Afraid," by Terri Mork Speirs: "The Bible study session for this month reminds us that Jesus always favors the outsiders. During Advent we remember a supreme outsider, a posterchild outsider, if you will – a young girl named Mary who was told not to be afraid even as she was called to step outside her boundaries in a big and dangerous way. She prepared to bear the gift of Christmas. We prepare to receive it. And what is the gift? Strength through vulnerability, divinity through humanity, power through weakness."

May we all share in the true meaning and the forever blessing of Christmas!

Come, See  
What's New in the  
Office Reception Area

Stop in and take a look at the new furniture in the office reception area. It is a wonderful addition to the area that makes it very warm, inviting, and welcoming. The furniture was purchased with an anonymous donation given for that purpose. Lisa Jervik graciously worked with the staff in selecting the furniture and fabrics. Thanks, anonymous donor, and thanks, Lisa! (Hint, hint: Several corner areas of The Gathering Place would also be greatly enhanced with some casual, comfortable furniture groupings. A special gift or two, however, would be required to make that possible.)

## LET'S COMMUNICATE! OUR SAVIOR'S STAFF DIRECTORY

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## Annual Meeting Set for Jan. 29

The annual meeting of Our Savior's Lutheran Church will be held in the Celebrate Center on Sunday, Jan. 29, at 12:45 p.m. Business will include reports, presentation of the 2013 budget, election of officers, Congregation Council, and board members, and a proposal regarding the use of movable modules in the Sanctuary.

## A Great Big Thank You...

...to the following people, who made pledges and/or contributions to the Another Step Forward in Faith capital campaign. As of press date, 497 pledges have been received, totaling \$1,887,699.21. While this amount will not wipe out the remaining debt, it is another big *step forward!* Thank you!

Aaron and Jody Aadland; Richard and Renee Aaker; Carrie Aaron; Michael Aaron; Carol Aaron; Don and Sarah Abbas; Greg and Annette Adams; Jason and Kami Adams; Mary Lou Adamson; Fred and Susan Aderhold; Selma Ahrendt; Orlan and Trish Albertson; Greg and Beth Amble; Roger and Uydene Amdahl; Stephanie Amiotte; Deaun Andersen; Anne Anderson; Dennis and Julie Anderson; Evelyn Anderson; Kirk and Janet Anderson; Lynn and Diane Anderson; Nate and Suzanne Anderson; Richard and Marilyn Anderson; Sonja and Charlie Anderson; Sue Anderson Bequest; Steven and Karen Andrisen; Delores Assid; Carol Austin

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Dave and Karen Zimbeck

## International Cuisine Dinners Return

Back by popular demand, the Parish Life Board will be sponsoring International Cuisine Dinners again this winter. Mark your calendar for Thursday, Jan. 19, for Middle Eastern cuisine at Sanaa's 8<sup>th</sup> Street Gourmet, 401 E. Eighth St. Sanaa is an award-winning chef; learn more at [sanaacooks.com](http://sanaacooks.com). Watch for more details in the January *InterCom* and bulletins.

## OCTOBER FOUNDATION GIFTS

**In Memory of Sally Giddings**  
Marsha Millage  
Ione Svendsen  
Ellen Unzicker

## OCTOBER MEMORIALS

**In Memory of Beverly Bothe (Mother of Betty Tanck)**  
Troy and Diane Balk

**In Memory of Millard (Jake) Muchow**  
Sally Ahrendt  
Barry and Pamela Beeninga  
Randall and Brenda Exon  
Robert and Karen Exon  
Rolland and Debby Exon  
Leif and Kathleen Fjellestad  
MaryAnn Hallberg  
Milton and Marjorie Hanson  
Ronald and Jackie Heemstrta  
Dennis and Maryann Knutson  
Gilmore and Dorothy Koepsell  
Harlen and Cheryl Kluck  
Donald and Shireen Levsen  
Helen Lewin  
Eleanor Miller  
Wesley and Gail Nelson  
Arthur and Ruth Olsen  
Howard and Lou Ann Paulson  
Dorothy Peterson  
Mark and Marilyn Schempp

Merle and Dolores Schmidt  
Kathleen Stelzer  
Georgia Viereck  
Greg and Janell Vogue  
Waterford at All Saints, LLC  
Marvin and Katherine Widness

**In Memory of Randy Peterson**  
Arnold Bjork  
Hugh and Cynthia Brewer  
Jeanne Carter  
Deodata Cowley  
Jean Gallagher  
Dorothy Hanson  
Mark and Laurie Hintermeyer  
David and Bonnie Kiesow  
Lloyd and Donna Knutson  
Stan Lovro  
Myron and Karen Mizell  
Harold and Beverly Mostrom  
Mary Muchow  
Eldon and Pauline Nelson  
Margaret Novak  
Russell and Norma Nyhaug  
Gary and Rosaaen Olson

Monroe and Darlene Paulson  
Irene Peterson  
Doreen Rollag  
Ron and Martha Rossing  
Mark and Marilyn Schempp  
Scott and Debra Shephard  
Arlen Viste

**In Memory of Evelyn Stoudt**  
Charles Velure

**In Honor of Charles and Norma Kant's 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary**  
Sandy Murray  
Michael and Kathleen Nelson  
Shawn and Erin Pritchett  
Peggy Savage

**In Honor of Harriet Lovseth's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday**  
Ronald and Janet Hybertson

**In Celebration of Granddaughter's Baptism**  
Marty and Ray Johnson

## FLOWER SPONSORS

**Nov. 13, 2011**  
Flowers are given in celebration of Mandeline Gaede's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday by her family.

## TELECAST SPONSORS

**Oct. 30, 2011**  
Telecasts are sponsored in loving memory of Sally Giddings by family and friends.

**Nov. 6, 2011**  
Telecasts sponsored in memory of Joanne Hovda and in honor of Al Hovda's 89<sup>th</sup> birthday by Michael and Debby Olson.

# PARISH LIFE

## Eagle Scout Project Benefits OSL and Neighborhood



Tanner Houselog, an OSL member and Lincoln High School senior, created a sitting garden for OSL as a part of his Eagle Scout project. It is located just west of the parking lot on an empty lot that OSL owns on Summit Ave. The sitting garden will serve OSL and the neighborhood as a place to rest, sit, pray, or visit. Thank you, Tanner, and Tanner's family, for your hard work.

## It's Time to Serve! Food to You

Our Savior's will again partner with Augustana Lutheran on Thursday, Dec. 15, for the Food To You distribution of food. Sign up at the Information Center for this opportunity to serve others during this holiday season. Eighteen volunteers are needed to assist in setting up, distributing items, and helping families carry groceries. The time commitment is usually from 5:15 to 7:30 p.m. Know that

each family greatly appreciates your service and donations. A little more than one-third of the guest families are new each week. If you are unable to serve that night, you can still support FTY by donating the food of the month for December, which is tuna and tuna helper. There also is an ongoing need for hygiene items: toilet paper, toothpaste, bar soap, and shampoo. If you have any questions, contact Cheryl Dyvig at 359-4357.

## Adult Learning Opportunities for December

The Friendship Room, 10:00-10:50 a.m. Bring your breakfast, return dishes to the clean-up volunteers in The Gathering Place

- Dec. 4** – Advent Bible study with the pastors
- Dec. 11** – Sandy Jerstad shares her recently published book, *Letters of Love*, which includes sermons by the late Rev. Mark Jerstad, who was campus pastor at Augustana from 1977 to 1985 and a member of OSL
- Dec. 18** – Special meeting of the congregation, 10:00 a.m., in the Sanctuary

## Midnight Madness Again!

Midnight Madness is an OSL-sponsored event for Augustana students to study, relax, and eat, as they prepare for final exams. This year OSL will host the students on Thursday, Dec. 15, from 6:00 p.m. to midnight. Some 90 pizzas will be served to over 500 Augustana students. That's a lot of pizza, and sponsors are needed: Purchase a

sponsorship for \$10 on any Sunday through Dec. 11. Also, volunteers are needed to bring in home-baked goodies, chips and dip, fruits and vegetables, and anything else hungry college kids will eat. And workers are needed too. Look for the Midnight Madness table in The Gathering Place to sign up to donate and serve.

## Charitable Gift Annuity - Rates to Drop Jan. 1

An intriguing gift method is the Charitable Gift Annuity, a safe and wonderful way to help others while receiving a needed income for life. You can make a gift to help build Our Savior's Lutheran Foundation and at the same time receive an income for life from that gift!

Your income will be fixed and guaranteed. You will save on taxes because you will receive a charitable deduction for a portion of your gift and the income itself will be partially tax-free. There may also be capital gains, gift, estate, and inheritance tax savings. And you will be freed from all management and re-investment worries.

Rates are set according to your age at the time of the gift and range from 4.4% at age 55 to 9.8% at age 90 and over. Gift Annuities may be written on one or two lives. (Rates listed are for One-Life Annuities. Two-Life rates are slightly lower because a second life is involved.) But these current rates will drop on Jan. 1, 2012. The following rates will go

into affect on this date:

Age	2012 Rate	2011 Rate
55	4%	4.4%
60	4.4%	4.8%
65	4.7%	5.3%
70	5.1%	5.8%
75	5.9%	6.5%
80	6.8%	7.5%
85	7.8%	8.4%
90+	9%	9.8%

Contact the Church Office for more information before the rates of your lifetime income decline. OSL can provide you with a brochure that further explains the benefits of this gift and will make arrangements for you to have a confidential and non-committal conversation with a one of the staff of Lutheran Planned Giving of South Dakota.

The OSL foundation provides for the needs of many members of the congregation and also assists with outreach projects as well. It is folks like you – those who wish to expand their giving – who provide the generous gifts to build the Foundation's ability to serve.

## New Members Received

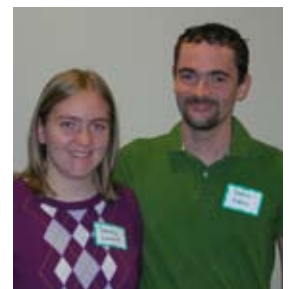
Please welcome these new members, who were received into our church family in Oct.



Laura Klinkhammer, Curtis Wong



Liz Dicaprio



Stacey Lenart, Drew Adam



Sandy Jersted



Nathan and Susan Quello, Brita, Bergen, and John

Not pictured: Odell Davis II, Odell and O'Zareus

## Our Savior's Lutheran Church Christmas Lights Tour

Sponsored by Senior Ministries

Sunday Evening, Dec. 11, 2011

6:00 – 8:15 p.m.

Cost: \$5.00

Pay at the Church Office when you register  
Scholarships are available; call Joyce Kaatz, 336-2942

### Evening's Schedule:

6:00-6:45 p.m. – Treats and fellowship in The Gathering Space; arrive when you want

6:45 – Load the bus for the tour of lights

**Need a ride to OSL and back home?** Let the church office know when you register. If you can provide transportation to someone, let the Church Office know when you register. You will be called only if someone needs a ride.

Space is limited (50 seats available) so register early by calling 336-2942 or stopping by the Church Office.

## A Christmas Gift-Buying Opportunity

Enjoy stress-free gift buying for the holidays on Sunday mornings, Dec. 4 and Dec. 11, in The Gathering Place. The Board for Church in Society will host a Fair Trade Market featuring jewelry and crafts, benefiting Lutheran World Relief and handcrafters in developing countries. Also available will be fair-trade coffee and chocolate for your Christmas giving.

Alternative gifts that make an impact on the mission and ministry of the church will be featured for those hard-to-buy-for people on your list. With an ELCA Good Gift for

World Hunger, you can:

- provide fresh water for an entire community;
- give a goat to provide families with food, funds, and fertilizer;
- plant an orchard to bear good, nutritious fruit for years to come;
- offer a micro-credit loan to help a woman start a small business;
- help a child buy school supplies.

A card and description of your gift will be provided for your recipient, along with the satisfaction of knowing you've made a difference to "the least of these."

# CARING MINISTRIES

## Stephen Ministry: Putting God's Love in Action, by Chad Mickelson

Our Savior's Stephen Ministry equips lay people to provide confidential one-to-one Christian care to individuals in the congregation and community who are experiencing difficulties in their lives. If you are a good listener and a compassionate person, now is the time to prayerfully consider becoming a Stephen Minister.

A Stephen Minister is:

- a child of God who walks beside a person who is hurting;
- a congregation member with gifts for caregiving who was carefully selected to serve in this role;
- a lay person who has received 50 hours of training in providing emotional and spiritual care;

- a caring, Christian friend who listens, cares, prays, supports, and encourages;

- someone who will be there for his or her care-receiver, meeting faithfully for about an hour each week, for as long as there's a need.



There is never a perfect time in our busy lives to commit to being a Stephen Minister. But if you are a good listener and a compassionate person, you may find this opportunity

to be the perfect way to put "God's Love in Action."

The 50-hour training course for 2012 will begin on Tuesday, Jan. 3. With this training, you will be specially equipped to listen, care, encourage, and support people going through tough times in their life. Once you have completed this training, you will continue to be lifted up and supported through bimonthly meetings and continuing-education opportunities.

To receive a comprehensive packet of information about the Stephen Ministry program, as well as further details about the upcoming class, call Kathy Nelson at 336-2942.

## Blue Christmas Service of Remembrance in Advent

The 6:30 p.m. midweek Advent service on Dec. 21 will include the Blue Christmas Service of Remembrance for those who have experienced the loss of a child or another loved one. At this service worshippers are invited forward during the prayers to kneel and share specific prayer requests, and to be anointed with the sign of the cross. As you return to your seats there will be candles in front to light in memory of those who have died.

As part of the OSL tradition through the years, special ornaments have been

placed on the Tree of Remembrance in front of the Sanctuary. Previous ornaments will be placed on the tree next to the altar prior to the service this year. If you have an ornament you would like to bring that this evening, please do so, and place it on the tree before the service, or leave it on the communion table to be placed on the tree following the prayers.

The Blue Christmas Service can be a powerful time to gather together in prayer, remembrance, and support of each other.

## POSITION OPEN

Applications for the part-time position (17.5 hours per week) of Caring Ministries Coordinator are being accepted through Dec. 9. This person would work with the Pastor of Caring Ministries, Parish Nurse, Pastor of Visitation, and volunteers. Send a letter of application and resume to Pr. Tim Lemme by Dec. 9.

## Veterans Crisis Line

Veterans Crisis Line magnets and cards are available at the Information Center – pick one up for yourself or a family or friend today at the Information Center.

The caring professionals at the Veterans Crisis Line (1-800-273-8255) are specially trained and experienced in helping Veterans of all ages and circumstances. Many of the responders are veterans themselves

and understand what veterans and their families and friends have been through and the challenges veterans of all ages and service eras face. Since its launch in 2007, the Veterans Crisis Line has answered more than 400,000 calls and made more than 14,000 lifesaving rescues. In 2009, the Veterans Crisis Line added an anonymous online chat service, which has helped more than 4,000 people.

## Faith and Skills for Parenting begins Jan. 4

Pr. Tim Lemme will lead a new parenting class on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30, starting on Jan. 4. The class will emphasize communication and faith skills when dealing with children – especially adolescent youth.

The purpose of Faith and Skills for Parenting:

- to raise awareness of the value of using good basic communication and caring skills in all relationships, especially parenting;
- to involve parents in learning these skills;

- to discuss and practice meaningful ways for parents to share and integrate faith in the home;

- to use various methods of helping parents groups learn to know each other and be comfortable in sharing;

- to lay the groundwork for establishing support for parents in the congregation.

Parents of seventh-grade youth are strongly encouraged to participate, although all parents are invited to attend. Contact Pr. Tim to register, 336-2942 or tlemme@oslchurch.com.

## HEALTH MINISTRIES



Our Savior's has a number of ongoing health ministries that meet on a weekly or monthly basis. Please feel free to join any of the following sessions. For more information, call Joyce Kaatz at 336-2942, ext. 28.

### LIVING WITH CANCER

**Every Tuesday** at 2:00 p.m. in the Friendship Room. People and their families who have or are experiencing the challenge of cancer are welcome. If you cannot attend, but would like to be on our prayer and devotional mailing list, please call 336-2942, ext. 28.



### FOOT CARE CLINIC

Cost is \$25 per person. Wednesdays, Dec. 7 and Jan. 4, and Thursday, Dec. 15, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. To register, call the Church Office at 336-2942.

### THERAPUTIC MASSAGES

in the Caring Ministry Oasis Room. Cost is \$12 for 15 minutes. Wednesdays, Dec. 7 and Jan. 4, and Thursday, Dec. 15, 9:00 a.m. to noon. Call the Church Office to make an appointment.



Wednesday nights  
4:00 to 8:00 p.m.

### STITCHING MINISTRIES

Learn how to knit or crochet prayer shawls (to be given to people to remind them of God's presence and love in their lives) and mittens and scarves (for missions).



Knitting/Crocheting Ministry: Dec. 14

Second Saturday Stitchers & More: Dec. 10, 9:00–11:30 a.m., The Gathering Place

*An open format of gathering together to knit and crochet numerous items and crafts. Don't know how to knit or crochet? We can teach you!*

### GOOD GRIEF

Every Thursday at 10:00 a.m. in Room 1. Offers support to anyone dealing with loss and crisis in their lives.



and visitors are welcome at the clinic, which is held each Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon at Falls Community Health in downtown Sioux Falls. The clinic is a service of the Sanford Parish Nurse Institute.

# WORSHIP AND ARTS

## Midweek Advent Services

“Here We Come a-Caroling” is the focus of midweek Advent services on Dec. 7, 14, and 21 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Worship will be preceded by supper in The Gathering Place, served from 5:00 to 6:15 p.m. Services will include the singing of favorite carols, reflections on the carols, and scripture readings. Carolers are needed each Wednesday to gather worshippers from The Gathering Place to move into the sanctuary. If you are interested in being a caroler, contact Kris Wollman, 336-2942, ext. 39, or [kwollman@oslchurch.com](mailto:kwollman@oslchurch.com). There will be a twenty-minute rehearsal in the sanctuary prior to worship each week for the carolers.

If you are a middle-school or high-

school instrumentalist or singer, consider volunteering to provide music during the offering at the midweek Advent services. Marilyn Schempp is coordinating the offering music and would like to put some instrumental ensembles together. You can contact Marilyn at 336-2942, ext. 36, or [mschempp@oslchurch.com](mailto:mschempp@oslchurch.com).

## Choral Advent Service

“A Little Advent Music” by Hugo Distler will be presented at the Choral Advent/Christmas services on Sunday, Dec. 18, at 8:45 and 11:00 a.m. Festive services. This work is based on the hymntune of “Savior of the Nations, Come.” Readings from scripture and other writings will be interwoven with music from the choirs, instrumentalists, and the congregation. Come this last Sunday of Advent and hear the story in words

and music.

## Family Choir on Christmas Day

Bring the family on Christmas morning at 8:45 to be part of a Family Choir at the 9:30 a.m. Christmas Day service. There will be brass, organ, and carols to start your Christmas Day. You do not need to be a member of a choir to participate.

## Children’s Choirs

The Children’s choirs will be part of the Sunday School Christmas program on Sunday, Dec. 18, at 3:00 p.m. in the Celebrate Center. Dress rehearsal is Saturday, Dec. 17, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Thank you to all of the parents of the children’s choir members who faithfully have their children attend choir and participate in the worship life of the church. You

are giving your children a great gift that will last a lifetime.

## Music Events Calendar

**Dec. 1** – Anjelic Concert, 7:00 p.m. Tickets \$20. Call 336-1525 for tickets

**Dec. 2** – Augustana Christmas Vespers, 7:30 p.m.

**Dec. 3** – Augustana Christmas Vespers, 3:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

**Dec. 4** – Augustana Christmas Vespers, 3:00 p.m.

*Tickets for Augustana Vespers are \$12 for adults and \$8 for students and seniors. Go to [www.augietickets.com](http://www.augietickets.com) or call 274-5320 for tickets.*

**Dec. 18** – Advent/Choral Christmas services, 8:45 and 11:00 a.m. Festive services

**Dec. 18** – Sunday School Christmas program, 3:00 p.m., Celebrate Center

# EDUCATION

## December Sunday School and Activity Schedule

<b>Dec. 4</b>	Regular Sunday School
<b>Dec. 11</b>	Christmas Program Practice, 9:55-10:50 a.m.
<b>Dec. 17</b>	Christmas Program Practice, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon, followed by a Pizza Party, 12:00-1:30 p.m.
<b>Dec. 18</b>	Christmas Program Practice, 9:55-10:50 a.m.
<b>Dec. 18</b>	Old-Fashioned Christmas Program at 3:00 p.m., Celebrate Center
<b>Dec. 25</b>	Merry Christmas! No Sunday School – worship with your family
<b>Jan. 1</b>	Happy New Year! No Sunday School – worship with your family

## Why I teach Sunday School, by Suzanne Veenis



When she started confirmation, she joined me in teaching Sunday School and we began teaching the two-year-old class. I thought, maybe we can do this...

The two-year-old class is now the three-year-old class, and we still teach together. What I found through the years is, yes, I can do this...

Sunday School is about loving children and giving them an hour of your time to help their spiritual growth. Twenty years of teaching Sunday School has brought a joy of watching little ones turn into adults – some with their own children now! It has brought an anticipation to my Sundays as I spend that extra hour with our daughter as we teach together. Sunday School is a seed, a seed that will blossom in a child – we just don’t know when.

Watching a child grow into an adult, spending time with my daughter, planting a seed – that is why I teach Sunday School.

Twenty years ago, there was a notice in the bulletin that asked for volunteers to teach Sunday School. While I sat in the pew, I thought, maybe I can do this...

I asked to be placed with first graders. First graders are inquisitive and respectful. They are taught the Ten Commandments. I thought, maybe I can do this...

When our daughter, Katie, became a first grader I decided to follow her through the Sunday School years and taught her class up until confirmation. I thought, maybe I can do this...

## Old-Fashioned Christmas Program Is Dec. 18



All of the Sunday School children will be singing at an Old-Fashioned Christmas Program on Dec. 18 at 3:00 p.m. in the Celebrate Center. If you or your child would like to have a speaking part, sign up outside the Labyrinth Room before Dec. 5. Practice will be the two Sundays

before the program. Children with speaking parts will also have two afternoon practices. Parents and grandparents are welcome to help with the set design and costumes. Contact Anne Anderson at [aanderson@oslchurch.com](mailto:aanderson@oslchurch.com) if you can help.

## Outreach: Christmas Present for the Hartwigs

For the past five years Our Savior’s has supported missionaries Kristopher and Rebecca Hartwig in Tanzania. Traveling rough and remote roads, Kristopher has overseen palliative care teams in 21 Lutheran hospitals. Rebecca taught music and studied at

Makumira University. A Christmas gift will be sent to them in St. Paul. If you would like to participate personally in this gift, a place to give is available in The Gathering Place at the Fair Trade/Alternative gift table.

## The Angel Tree

Our Savior’s is sponsoring an Angel Tree. Children in need throughout the Sioux Falls area will be recipients of your kindness and generosity. You are encouraged to select an angel from the tree with the name and age of a boy or girl who would welcome your gift of love. All gifts (unwrapped) are due back to the Church Office by Dec. 14.

## Sunday School and Wednesday Spark Leaders Needed

Workshop leaders are needed for the second semester, beginning Jan. 8, for both the Sunday School workshop rotation and Wednesday evenings. Workshop leaders have the wonderful opportunity to offer children their time, abilities, and gifts in ministry such as cooking, drama, theater, art, games, or crafts. If interested, contact Anne Anderson at [aanderson@oslchurch.com](mailto:aanderson@oslchurch.com).

# OSL YOUTH AND FAMILY

## Brent's Bite

Bring on winter! I didn't think I would ever be one to say that, but let's be honest: this is the Midwest and winter means snow. It sure has taken its time in coming.

In any case, when it comes to thinking of what December means to us as Christians, snow really does not matter. December means Christmas and Christmas means Christ coming to us. Our anticipation of this season ought to be focused on this miracle. Just as the way in which Christ came did not match anyone's expectation of what the Messiah's coming should be like, so does the true meaning of this season not match much of the world's preoccupation with decoration and presents.

This is a perfect time of year to point others to Jesus. If stores and other

establishments can promote the traditions of decorating, throwing parties, and shopping, we can promote the traditions of Advent, attending church, and retelling the Nativity story. When friends and coworkers talk about all of the shopping they need to do, listen and then share with them about all of the Advent services going on at church. If the topic is lights and ornaments, use the opportunity to tell the story of the Nativity scene. Do people you know get invited to ugly-sweater parties? Invite them to a meaningful party right here at Our Savior's on Dec. 24.

In Christ,  
Brent  
336-2942, ext. 35  
brenth@oslchurch.com

## Give the Gift of Camp

With all of the gift-giving going on this time of year consider a gift like no other: Give your family, grandchild, niece or nephew, son or daughter the gift of a life-changing week at camp. When you gift a loved one with camp you give them time on the beach and lake, songs and campfires, games and new friends, and, most important, time spent with God. How does that sound?

Our Savior's is fortunate to have a great relationship with several wonderful Lutheran Bible Camps. These camping ministries include Ingham Okobojo Lutheran Bible Camp, where Confirmation students retreat to each fall and spring; Shetek Lutheran Ministries, where elementary-age youth spend time each summer; and Lutherans Outdoors, with all of their locations throughout the state, especially NeSoDak, where middle-school students trek to in the summer.

For more information on how to give the gift of camp, talk to Anne or Brent at church (or call them at 336-2942), and check out the camp websites: [www.losd.org](http://www.losd.org), [www.shetek.org](http://www.shetek.org), and [www.okobojo.org](http://www.okobojo.org).

## December Youth Calendar

### Dec. 7

Youth Group service night (tentatively at Prairie Creek Assisted Living).

### Dec. 14

Jesus' Birthday Party, all ages.

### Dec. 15

Midnight Madness,  
6:00 p.m.-12:00 midnight.

### Dec. 16

Lazer Snacks outreach event at Falls Church, 7:30-11:00 p.m.

### Dec. 21 and 28

Youth Group does not meet.

### Dec. 25 and Jan. 1

Sunday School, Sunday groups, and Allies do not meet.

### Dec. 31

Nightfall New Year event with Good News Reformed Church,  
7:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m.

## Bowden Youth Center's Teen Street Angel Tree

As Christmas shopping comes to the forefront of your attention, remember those in our very own community who are in need. Select a name from the Teen Street Angel

Tree at OSL and bless a life with the love of Christ. Gifts should be returned by Sunday, Dec. 14. Thank you for your generosity.

# OSL LIBRARY

## LIBRARY HAPPENINGS

Library Book Club meets the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Library. The Dec. 22 featured book is *Skipping Christmas* by John Grisham.

Look up OSL Library materials from your home on the online catalog, [osllibrary.com](http://osllibrary.com)

The Library is collecting used greeting cards.

Donate magazines one year old or newer to the free magazine exchange in the Library.

The Library is open additional hours: Saturdays 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon.

## Preparing for Christmas

Christmas means different things for different people. If you ask a child he or she might say it's about presents or even Santa. *Advent Calendar on DVD: A Christmas Countdown for December* is a DVD that shares a true story for each day of Advent that helps set the stage and prepare our hearts for Christmas. How did Advent calendars and wreaths come about? Who wrote "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" and why did it become so famous? What is the real story of Santa Claus? Each story takes about three to five minutes to

watch and points out how we can emulate the intent behind the story; things like generosity, hope, and love. *Advent Calendar on DVD 2* gives a daily look at the meaning behind well-known Christmas songs, and *The Star of Bethlehem* is an amazing documentary that explores the biblical and historical clues surrounding the most famous star. The Library has many Christmas and Advent DVDs, books, and music CDs on display and available for checkout for you and the whole family to help you remember what Christmas is all about.

## Nativity Walk

Another way to start preparing for Christmas is to stroll through the Nativity Walk in the Library, Dec. 3 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and Dec. 4 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Nativity sets owned by church members and the Library committee

will be on display amongst the Library shelves. Some are from faraway lands and some hold special meaning for the owners. All of the sets express the gift that God shared with all of us, the birth of his son, Jesus.

## Second Saturday Movie

*The Nativity Story Movie* will be showing in the Library on Dec. 10 at 6:30 p.m. The film tells the familiar story of the birth of Jesus with settings that are authentic. What sets this movie apart is the portrayal of the friendship and trust that

emerges between Mary and Joseph. They overcame public scorn and developed a loving relationship that helped them through the difficult journey to Bethlehem. This movie is a wonderful way to prepare for Christmas.

## Kid's Corner

The DVD *How Can I Celebrate Advent? A Young Christian's Guide to the Church Year* explains the season of Advent through the use of puppets and cartoons in a manner that children can understand. Use this as a tool to enhance your family Advent celebration. A fun book



for the Christmas season is *The Three Wise Guys* by Mike Thaler. Enjoy a humorous story of a young boy who is one of the "three wise guys" in the Sunday School play. He and his fellow "wise guys" navigate their way to Bethlehem and learn to follow the star of Jesus every day, not just in a play.

## Christmas Bags, Boxes, and Gift Cards Sale Begins Dec. 3

Beautiful handcrafted Christmas gift boxes, gift bags, and gift tags, will be for sale in the Library throughout the month of December, starting Dec. 3. The talented Friends of the

Library have created one-of-a-kind items from recycled Christmas cards that will make any gift extra-special. Donations will be used to purchase items for the Library.

**Library Hours:** Sunday, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon | Monday 9:00 a.m. - noon | Tuesday 9:00 a.m. to noon | Wednesday 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. | Thursday 9:00 a.m. - noon | Friday: closed Saturday: 10:00 a.m. - noon. Second Saturday of the month 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

**Thurs. Dec. 1**  
 9:30am Low Impact Exercise - YR  
 10:00am Library Storytime - Library  
 10:00am Play & Pray - SonRm  
 10:00am Good Grief Group - Rm 103  
 3:15pm Circle Bible Study Leaders - Rm 103  
 7:00pm Angelic Concert - CC

**Fri. Dec. 2**  
 7:30pm Augie Vespers - SA

**Sat. Dec. 3 - NATIVITY DISPLAY IN LIBRARY**  
 8:00am Woodshop Ministry - Shop  
 11:30am WELCA Luncheon - GA PI  
 3:00pm Augie Vespers - SA  
 5:00pm Festive Worship - CC  
 7:30pm Augie Vespers - SA

**Sun. Dec. 4 - NATIVITY DISPLAY IN LIBRARY**  
 8:00am Response Singers - ChrRm  
 8:45am Festive Worship - SA  
 8:45am Celebrate Worship - CC  
 9:55am Sunday School - LL  
 10:00am Adult Ed - FR  
 11:00am Festive Worship - SA  
 11:00am Celebrate Worship - CC  
 3:00pm Augie Vespers - SA

**Mon. Dec. 5**  
 9:30am Low Impact Exercise - YR  
 9:30am Crossways Bible Study - FR  
 6:30pm Crossways Bible Study - FR  
 6:30pm Guide to Jesus - Rm 101

**Tues. Dec. 6**  
 9:00am Staff Meeting - CR  
 1:00pm WELCA Board Meeting - Rm 101  
 2:00pm Cancer Support - FR  
 5:30pm Divorce Care - Rm 103, SonRm  
 5:30pm Divorce Care/Kids - YR  
 5:30pm Bells of OSL - BCR  
 7:00pm Stephen Ministry - FR

**Wed. Dec. 7**  
 7:00am Conversation w/God - Chapel  
 9:00am Foot Care Clinic - CM  
 9:00am Therapeutic Massage - Oasis  
 9:00am Friends of the Library - Rm 103  
 4:00pm Massages - Oasis  
 4:45pm Joy Ringers - BCR  
 5:00pm Advent Supper - GA PI  
 5:30pm Joyful Noise Choir - Chapel  
 6:00pm King's Choir - ChrRm  
 6:00pm Young Saints - BCR  
 6:00pm Woodshop Ministry - Shop  
 6:30pm Advent Worship - SA  
 7:00pm Celebrate Band - CC  
 7:00pm Senior Choir - ChrRm  
 7:30pm Youth Group - YR

**Thurs. Dec. 8**  
 9:30am Low Impact Exercise - YR  
 10:00am Play & Pray - SonRm  
 10:00am Good Grief Group - Rm 103  
 10:00am Library Storytime - Library  
 11:30am Stephen Ministry - FR  
 11:30am Rejoice Circle - Rm 103  
 12:30pm Stephen Ministry Leaders - Rm 101  
 7:00pm OSL Board Night - GA PI

**Fri. Dec. 9**  
 6:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast - FR

**Sat. Dec. 10**  
 8:00am Woodshop Ministry - Shop  
 9:00am 2nd Sat. Stitchers - GA PI  
 5:00pm Festive Worship - SA  
 6:00pm Supper Following - GA PI  
 6:30pm Movie Night - Library

**Sun. Dec. 11**  
 8:00am Response Singers - ChrRm  
 8:45am Festive Worship - SA  
 8:45am Celebrate Worship - CC  
 9:55am Sunday School - LL  
 10:00am Adult Ed - FR  
 10:00am Baptism Class - CR  
 11:00am Festive Worship - SA  
 11:00am Celebrate Worship - CC

**Mon. Dec. 12**  
 9:30am Crossways Bible Study - FR  
 9:30am Low Impact Exercise - YR  
 5:00pm Stephen Mstry Christmas Party -GA PI  
 6:30pm Crossways Bible Study - FR

**Tues. Dec. 13**  
 9:00am Staff Meeting - CR  
 9:30am Quilters - Labyrinth  
 2:00pm Cancer Support - FR  
 5:30pm Divorce Care - Rm 103, SonRm  
 5:30pm Divorce Care/Kids - YR  
 5:30pm Bells of OSL - BCR  
 7:00pm Library Christmas Party - GA PI

**Wed. Dec. 14**  
 7:00am Conversation w/God - Chapel  
 9:00am Friends of the Library - Rm 103  
 9:30am Crocheting/Knitting Mstry - SonRm  
 4:00pm Massages - Oasis  
 4:45pm Joy Ringers - BCR  
 5:00pm Advent Supper - GA PI  
 5:30pm Joyful Noise Choir - Chapel  
 6:00pm King's Choir - ChrRm  
 6:00pm Young Saints - BCR  
 6:00pm Woodshop Ministry - Shop  
 6:30pm Advent Worship - SA  
 7:00pm Celebrate Band - CC  
 7:00pm Senior Choir - ChrRm  
 7:30pm Youth Group - YR

**Thurs. Dec. 15**  
 9:30am Low Impact Exercise - YR  
 9:30am Faith Circle - FR  
 10:00am Library Story Time - Library  
 10:00am Play & Pray - SonRm  
 10:00am Good Grief Group - Rm 103  
 1:00pm Elizabeth Circle - Rm 103  
 1:00pm Anna Circle - FR  
 1:00pm Peace Circle - Rm 101  
 6:00pm Midnight Madness - GA PI, Various Rooms

**Fri. Dec. 16**  
**Sat. Dec. 17**  
 8:00am Woodshop Ministry - Shop  
 8:30am LMIM - FR  
 5:00pm Festive Worship - SA

**Special Meeting of the Congregation on Dec. 18**

A special meeting of the congregation has been called for Sunday, Dec. 18, at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary for the purpose of acting on a recommendation to authorize the Council to appoint an interim senior pastor and to form a call committee to recommend a candidate for senior pastor. See President Brian Sittig's article on page 1.

**Sun. Dec. 18**  
 8:00am Response Singers - ChrRm  
 8:45am Festive Worship - SA  
 8:45am Celebrate Worship - CC  
 9:55am Sunday School - LL  
 10:00am Adult Ed - FR  
 11:00am Festive Worship - SA  
 11:00am Celebrate Worship - CC  
 3:00pm Christmas Program CC

**Mon. Dec. 19**  
 9:30am Crossways Bible Study - FR  
 9:30am Low Impact Exercise - YR  
 6:30pm Guide to Jesus - Rm 101  
 6:30pm Crossways Bible Study - FR

**Tues. Dec. 20**  
 9:00am Staff Meeting - CR  
 10:30am Friendship Club - FR/GA PI  
 2:00pm Cancer Support - FR  
 5:30pm Executive Committee - CR  
 5:30pm Bells of OSL - BCR  
 5:30pm Divorce Care - Rm 103, SonRm  
 5:30pm Divorce Care/Kids - YR

7:00pm Stephen Ministry - FR

**Wed. Dec. 21**  
 7:00am Conversation w/God - Chapel  
 9:00am Friends of the Library - Rm 103  
 1:00pm Library Book Covering - Library  
 4:00pm Massages - Oasis  
 4:45pm Joy Ringers - BCR  
 5:00pm Advent Supper - GA PI  
 5:30pm Joyful Noise Choir - Chapel  
 6:00pm King's Choir - ChrRm  
 6:00pm Young Saints - BCR  
 6:00pm Woodshop Ministry - Shop  
 6:30pm Advent Worship - SA  
 7:00pm Celebrate Band - CC  
 7:00pm Senior Choir - ChrRm  
 7:30pm Youth Group - YR

**Thurs. Dec. 22**  
 9:00am Therapeutic Massage - Oasis  
 9:30am Low Impact Exercise - YR  
 10:00am Good Grief Group - Rm 103  
 10:00am Library Storytime - Library  
 11:30am Stephen Ministry - FR  
 5:30pm Congregation Council - CR  
 7:00pm Book Club - Library

**Fri. Dec. 23**  
**Sat. Dec. 24**  
 3:30pm Festive Worship - SA  
 3:30pm Celebrate Worship - CC  
 5:00pm Evening Meal - FR  
 5:30pm Festive Worship - SA  
 10:00pm Festive Worship - SA

**Sun. Dec. 25**  
 9:30am Festive Worship - SA

**Mon. Dec. 26 - OFFICE CLOSED**

**Tues. Dec. 27**  
 9:00am Staff Meeting - CR  
 9:30am Quilters - Labyrinth  
 2:00pm Cancer Support - FR

**Wed. Dec. 28**  
 7:00am Conversation w/God - Chapel  
 7:00pm Celebrate Band - SA

**Thurs. Dec. 29**  
 9:30am Low Impact Exercise - YR

**Fri. Dec. 30**  
**Sat. Dec. 31**  
 8:00am Woodshop Ministry - Shop  
 5:00pm Festive Worship - SA

**WORSHIP SERVICES:**

Festive traditional: Saturday at 5:00 p.m., Sunday at 8:45 and 11:00 a.m.  
 Celebrate contemporary: Sunday at 8:45 and 11:00 a.m.

**TELEVISION BROADCASTS:**

**Celebrate:** 9:30 a.m. - KTTW (Cable 9, Channel 7.1)  
**Festive:** 1:00 p.m. - KSCB (Cable 30, Channel 53)  
**Dial-A-Devotion:** 330-7943 **Website:** www.oslchurch.com

**PASTORAL STAFF:**

**Les Svendsen**, Senior Pastor  
**Heidi Binstock**, Pastor of Outreach and Parish Life  
**Tim Lemme**, Pastor of Caring Ministries  
**Jared Rakness**, Pastor of Youth and Family  
**Don Lehmann**, Pastor of Visitation



**Giving Update AS OF October 31, 2011**

*Operating/benevolence giving: (Jan. 1 - October 31, 2011)*  
 Offerings Anticipated: \$ 1,402,967.00  
 Offerings Received: \$ 1,406,488.00  
 Amount Over: +1.00% \$ +3,521.00

*Stepping Forward in Faith (Jan. 1, 2007 - October 31, 2011)*  
 Amount Anticipated: \$ 8,116,195.00  
 Amount Received: \$ 8,272,562.00  
 Amount Over: +1.00% \$ +156,367.00

Keeping current in your giving is greatly appreciated and enables OSL to keep our many ministries going. **Thank you!**



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