

Quarterly Ministry Update

Winter 2023

Drop-off Week at Our Savior

This was our first year as a drop off location for Operation Christmas Child November 13-20. Renae Hoernemann organized collection week, with much help from Anne Frank.

We were open for two hours every day. We were able to accomplish this with 30 people, who volunteered over 100 hours. Everyone was greeted, and prayed for and the boxes were prayed over every step of the way. Scout Troop 409 was a huge help in packing the cartons into a truck Saturday morning. They also prayed over the shoe boxes.

We collected 1,270 shoe boxes that were packed from community members, Our Savior members, groups and area churches! Thanks to Renae, Anne and all the volunteers. We look forward to participating in collection week again next year!



The very first carton that was filled during collection week.

But the story continues ...

After Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes are packed and collected, they are shipped to a processing where they are inspected and prepared them for international shipping, after breaks every hour to pray for the children who will receive them.

Long before shoeboxes arrive in more than 100 countries, volunteer National Leadership Teams train pastors and community leaders who want to share the message of the Gospel and bless children. The leaders learn how to host child-friendly outreach events, and how to implement *The Greatest Journey* follow-up discipleship program.

Pastors host outreach events where people may not know Christ or in orphanages and other at risk areas. Many places also offer *The Greatest Gift*, a Gospel story booklet, and invite children to participate in *The Greatest Journey* discipleship program.

As a result of what they learn in *The Greatest Journey*, boys and girls grow in Christ and share with friends and family. The students also invite others to their graduations where the Gospel is shared. This often brings parents, siblings, and friends to accept Christ and become active members in the local church. Families are reached, churches grow, new churches are started, and communities are transformed.

All that started with the shoebox that you packed! Thank you!



Operation Christmas Child
A PROJECT of SAMARITAN'S PURSE

From the Senior Pastor

In John 3:16 Jesus tells Nicodemus, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." This is a promise that Jesus gave to Nicodemus and still gives to all humanity to this day. In these words we hear God's love for us, and in the celebration of Christmas we see God's love for us, as Jesus became one of us.

During the Christmas season it is easy to lose sight of the gift of Jesus becoming one of us and to instead focus on the sights and sounds of the season, or to think about the gifts we will receive or give. For many people it is a time not of joy, but of pain and hardship as they deal with loneliness and grief, or with the anguish of not having the money they would like to make Christmas special for their families.

At Christmas it is so important to remember why we celebrate. And the why is the gift of Jesus being born as a baby. In this gift, God shows how much He cares for each person that He has created, including you. In this gift, God gives us hope in the midst of a world that can often feel hopeless. In this gift, God comes to bring life to everyone, including you.

This Christmas, as we celebrate with our friends and families, and as we sing songs of joy, and exchange gifts, let us keep our eyes focused on the reason for the season. That Jesus loved us so much that He came to give us eternal life. He is the reason we are alive. He is the reason we celebrate.

My prayer for you this Christmas is that you would know the joy, love, hope, and the promise that God gives to you at Christmas, and in every day of your life. I would like to invite you to join us throughout the Advent and Christmas season to celebrate the love of Christ. God bless you and Merry Christmas!

In Christ's love, Pastor Adam

Advent Worship Services



Advent
2023
Wednesdays
4:30 or
6:30pm

Nov 29
Fall of Humanity
Dec 6
Promise of a Savior
Dec 13
Jesus, the Promise
Fulfilled

Christmas Music Celebration



100th Anniversary Event
Wednesday, December 20, 6:30pm

**Christmas
Music Celebration**
"Nine Lessons and Carols"

Featuring the
Our Savior Choir
Sunday School Children
Our Savior Youth
Chime Choir
Praise Team

Reception to follow in
the Community Center

In recognition of the 100th Anniversary of OSLCS, we are conducting a musical celebration of Christmas with nine readings and carols. The music for this service will include the children, Prek - 6th grade, the Chime Choir, the Mixed Choir, the Praise Team and our youth. Immediately following the celebration service, you are invited to attend a time of fellowship in the community Center hosted by the 100th Anniversary Committee.

Christmas Services



Sunday, Dec 24 10:00am
Christmas Eve 3:00, 5:00pm
Christmas Day 10:00am
Sunday, Dec 31 10:00am

Please note these special Sunday Service times:

- ♫ December 24—Single 10:00am service will include readings and carols
- ♫ December 31—Single 10:00am service with holy communion

Rally Day 9/10/23

In September, we kicked off the 100th Anniversary Celebration with a festive Rally Day service. We enjoyed an outdoor worship service followed by a chicken and potluck meal. We had a Vikings cheering corner, bounce houses and carnival games for the kids, Bingo and the Jolly Ramblers provided musical entertainment. It was a wonderful day of worship and fellowship.



Christian Education

On September 17, we kicked off the fall Confirmation programming for our 1st-8th grade students. We welcomed our Preschool-Kindergarten students as well for Sunday School. We have almost 60 students registered for the program this year and averaged attendance around 45 each week. On November 5, at the 10:45am service, we were able to celebrate the first communion for 10 of our 6th grade students.

Our programming switched gears in November and our Sunday morning classes of preschool-6th grade students now are working on their music for the upcoming Christmas Music Celebration. They begin class time in an opening where they do music together. They are working New Testament lessons and will focus on the biblical account of the birth of Jesus.

Starting in January they will meet to sing bible verse songs together and other music before they return to classrooms to continue a variety of lessons from the New Testament this school year.



This fall, our 6-12 graders and parents dove into the Darkroom Faith, which was a catalyst for conversations. There are so many questions, and they're huge—almost too big and a little too scary to tackle alone.

Sometimes, it seems safer to shut them out, keep things moving, and ignore the dark altogether. Together, we explored the Bible and saw Jesus was asking questions. Disruptive questions. Unpopular questions. We were able to find answers to these questions together.

Bible Study

God has provided us with a Bible study opportunity every day of the week. In total we have about 58 people attending these weekly classes, but there is room for more. Please consider joining a class and growing in your relationship with Jesus and one another.

January Servant Event

Save the date for our Harvest Pack servant Event on **Saturday, January 20 from 2:00-4:00pm**. We will be packing vitamin enriched oatmeal packs that will be distributed in our own community from the ICA Food Shelf and Bountiful Baskets Food Shelf.

Sign up early so you don't miss out on this fun event. Registration will be available soon.



Movie & Game Night

Join us **Saturday, January 27 beginning at 4:30pm**. Join us for fun, fellowship, games, and food! You can bring your favorite games, too! **All ages are welcome!**

- ★ 4:30pm—Board Games (for all ages), Cribbage, Ticket to Ride, Settlers of Catan, Chutes and Ladders, and Uno are just a few of the games we will have to play.
- ★ 4:30pm—Movie time in the Gym (great for your littles)
- ★ 6:00pm—Pizza (our your own supper if you would rather have something else)!
- ★ 6:45pm—Come on down for The Price Is Right. (for all ages)

A free-will offering will be taken to support the youth going to New Orleans in July of 2025 for the National Youth Gathering. The youth will give 25 percent of the total earned to support Our Savior School.



Our Savior Gala

Save the date for the Gala fundraiser on **Saturday, February 10**. Tickets will go on sale in December. Watch for more theme details and info coming soon!

Lent Worship 2024

- ✝ b 5:15-6:15pm
- ✝ Feb. 14—4:30 or 6:30pm **Ash Wednesday**
- ✝ Feb. 21, 28, March 6, 13, 20—4:30 or 6:30pm
- ✝ March 28—6:30pm **Maundy Thursday**
- ✝ March 29—12:00pm **Readings and Prayer**
7:30pm **Service of Darkness**

The Community Easter Egg Event

Save the date—**Saturday, March 30** we will once again be hosting our community for an Easter egg event. We look forward to sharing the Easter Story! If you would like to help in the planning, please contact Laurie.Bromenshenkel@oslcs.org.



Trunk or Treat

On October 27 we hosted our first evening Trunk or Treat! It was held on a very chilly Friday night and we had an amazing time and turnout! Grilled hot dogs, brats and mac and cheese were served for dinner. We had 17 trunks, including a few from our community and a prayer trunk this year. There was a nice bonfire to help keep warm. Pumpkin ring toss was set up in the gym. About 100 kids and their families attended, it was a wonderful event for our church, school and community.



Upcoming Youth Events

- ♦ Christmas party on December 17
- ♦ 8th-12th Gr Skiing on January 13-14
Friday 5:00pm – Saturday 10:00 pm
- ♦ Helping at the 2024 Gala on February 10
- ♦ Parents Night Out on February 16
- ♦ 9-12 grade Lock-in on February 16-17

Operation Christmas Child

The Operation Christmas Child shoebox packing event occurred on Wednesday, November 17. We began the evening with Chick-fil-A chicken and some delicious sides. We served over 100 people dinner and it was a great time of fellowship before packing.

We had around 135 participants, including school families and American Heritage Girls, that helped to pack 250 shoeboxes that night. We had a great variety of items and lots of things to choose from for every box. Thank you to all those who donated, packed and served that night! In total, we had 345 boxes that our church and school provided to Operation Christmas Child this year. Our prayer is that they are a blessing to the children who receive them.

We have already started the count for boxes next year and will keep our Amazon wish list up year round. Watch for clearance toys after holidays, Amazon deal days, and school supply sales, they are great times to grab a few extra items for shoeboxes!





December	
1	Promise Keepers Simulcast at Our Savior
3	Women at "I'm Dreaming of a Looney Christmas" 1:00pm
6	Advent Worship 4:30 & 6:30pm
8	God's Guys Christmas Fellowship 6:00pm
11	Cribbage 7:00pm
12	Festival of Lights Fundraiser
13	Advent Worship 4:30 & 6:30pm
14	Early Childhood Center Christmas Program
16	Choir Practice 9:00am (Sanctuary) Prayer Vigil 9:00am
17	LWML Cookie Sale for Missions
19	Music Celebration Dress Rehearsal Kids 6:30pm, Adults 6:45pm
20	100th Anniversary Event: Christmas Music Celebration 6:30pm
24	Single Holiday Worship Service 10:00am Christmas Eve Worship 3:00 & 5:00pm
25	Christmas Day Worship 10:00am
27	Blood Drive 1:00-7:00pm
30	Young Adult Christmas Get Together 6:00pm
31	Single Holiday Worship Service 10:00am

January	
6	Christmas un-decorating 9:00am
8	Cribbage Challenge 7:00pm
12	8th-12th Gr Skiing
20	LWML Christian Life Gathering at Victory, Eden Prairie 9:00am Harvest Pack Servant Event 2:00-4:00pm
21	Our Savior School Kids Singing
27	Movie & Game Night 4:30pm

February	
4	LWML "No Bake" Bake Sale
10	Our Savior Gala 5:30pm
12	Cribbage 7:00pm
14	Ash Wednesday Worship 4:30pm / 6:30pm Lenten Dinner 5:15pm (Host: Jamaica Mission Trip)
16	Parents Night Out 6:00pm 8th-12th grade lock-in Begins 6:00pm
17	Prayer Vigil 9:00am
21	Lent Worship 4:30pm and 6:30pm Lenten Dinner 5:15pm (Host: AHG)
22-24	Staff at Best Practices Conferences
24	Men's Breakfast Study
28	Lent Worship 4:30pm and 6:30pm Lenten Dinner 5:15pm (Host: AHG)

March	
6	Lenten Worship 4:30pm and 6:30pm Lenten Dinner 5:15pm (Host: Youth)
9	Women at Feed my Starving Children
10	100th Anniversary Event: Single 10:00am Worship Service and Fish Fry
11	Cribbage 7:00pm
13	Lenten Worship 4:30pm and 6:30pm Lenten Dinner 5:15pm (Host: TBD)
16	Prayer Vigil 9:00am
20	Lent Worship 4:30pm and 6:30pm Lenten Dinner 5:15pm (Host: TBD)
23	Men's Breakfast Bible Study 8:00am LWML Servant Event at Able Light Thrift Shop 10:00am Blood Drive 10:00-4:00pm
28	Maundy Thursday Worship 6:30pm
29	Good Friday Worship Readings and Prayer 12:00pm Service of Darkness 7:00pm
30	Community Easter Egg Event
31	Easter Sunrise Worship 6:00am Resurrection Celebration 8:00am. 9:30am & 11:00am