

  **Our Savior**  
LUTHERAN  
Excelsior, MN

# Quarterly Ministry Update

Fall 2025

**Youth Gathering 2025**



# Coming this fall!

## GriefShare

A new 13 week session of **GriefShare** began on Sunday, August 24 from 1:00-3:00pm. It is not too late to join the group. GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. You don't have to grieve alone. If you have questions, contact Lori Kroll or Lorraine Johnson. [www.GriefShare.org](http://www.GriefShare.org)

## Holiday Worship



**Single Holiday Worship**  
**Sunday, August 31**  
**10:00am Only**

LABOR DAY

The graphic features a central banner with the text 'LABOR DAY' in a blue, serif font on a light brown background. The banner is flanked by stylized American flags with stars and stripes. Above the banner, there are three stars on each side.

## Rally Day Worship



**Single Rally Day Worship**  
**Sunday, September 7**  
**10:00am Outdoor Worship**  
**(Bring a lawn chair if you choose)**

- **Potluck lunch to follow**
- **Bring a side dish to share**
- **Hamburgers will be grilled**
- **Dessert will be provided**

**Activities after Lunch**

- **A bounce house for kids**
- **Bingo for all ages**

The graphic features a central illustration of a yellow church with a red roof and a cross on top, set against a blue sky with white clouds and green trees. Below the illustration, there is a green banner with white text. To the left of the banner is a hamburger icon, and to the right is a colorful bounce house icon. At the bottom left, there are three bingo cards with the word 'BINGO' written on them.

## Children & Youth Education

Starting on **Sunday, September 14 at 9:30am** we will resume our Sunday morning education time. All children beginning at age 3 will have programs offered between services.

- Bible lessons for our Preschool-2nd grade students
- Catechism lessons (preparing for confirmation) for our 3rd-4th grade students
- Confirmation for our 5th-8th grade students.
- Bible Study for 9th-12th grade students

A schedule with lesson outline and key dates will be sent to all parents with children in Preschool-8th Grade soon. Watch your email for more info!

We are still in need of a few teachers for the Sunday School aged children. If you feel moved to serve the church in this way, please contact [Laura.Kimber@oslcs.org](mailto:Laura.Kimber@oslcs.org)

## Adult Bible Studies

**Men's Sunday Morning**—*The Titus Ten* will dive deep into the book of Titus and what it means to be a Godly man. A book will be available for you to pick up. (9 weeks beginning 9/14, at 9:30am in Room B04)

**Women's Sunday Morning**—*Golden Fruit* will examine how to live the fruit of the Spirit through the best times of your life. (9 weeks, beginning 9/14, at 9:30am in Room B06)

**Monday**—The group will conclude their study from last year on *The Messiah*. Then they will begin an in-depth study of the book of *Hebrews*. (Begins 9/8, 3:30pm in the Conference Room)

**Tuesday**—The Women's Bible Study will have stand alone sessions on the theme of *Equipping to Serve*. (Begins 9/9, 1:00pm in the Fellowship Hall)

**Wednesday**—The Zoom Bible Study will be digging into the *Promises of God*. (Begins 9/24 at 10:00am on Zoom)

**Thursday**—An Online Bible Study called *In The Beginning*, a look at the first 9 chapters of Genesis. (9/11 at 9:00pm on YouTube/Facebook)

**Friday**—The Men's Bible Study will conclude their study from last year on *The Twelve Disciples*. Then the group will decide the next topic of study (Begins 9/12, 6:15am at Perkins in Chaska)

**Saturday**—The monthly Men's Breakfast Bible Study will resume in 2026.

# Don't miss your opportunity!

## Growth Group Ministry

Our Savior Growth Group Ministry is about to launch its 2025-26 Season on October 12. Growth Groups brings people together in small groups to be encouraged and built up in their Christian life through Bible study, prayer, fellowship, and service.

God has provided new leaders with a variety of life-style opportunities to meet the needs of our congregation. Sign-up for Growth Groups through out September in the back of church or using the Church Center App.

All groups will begin with a six-session Bible study titled, *Everyone His Witness*. You will explore God's calling to be witnesses of Jesus Christ to the people in our everyday lives as husbands, wives, friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc.

## Music Ministry

If you are interested in learning more about the various musical opportunities you can participate in, contact [fred.limmel@oslcs.org](mailto:fred.limmel@oslcs.org). We welcome new voices, chime ringers, and instrumentalists of all ages. Join us as we make a beautiful sound to the Lord.

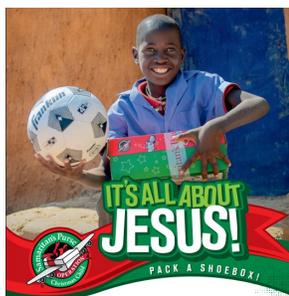
- ♫ The Mixed Choir meets Wednesdays at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary, beginning **September 3**.
- ♫ Chimes meet Wednesdays at 6:00pm in Room 207, beginning **September 10**.
- ♫ The Praise Team rehearses on Thursdays at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary.
- ♫ Instrumentalists/Vocalists—whether for the Praise Team or small ensembles of any kind, please let us know if you would like to participate.

## OCC Shoebox Supplies Needed

Our VBS students were busy and collected over 900 items that will going inside Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. Wow! Thanks be to God!

We will also need your help with purchasing items or making monetary donations to purchase items. **(Wow items, personal care items, school supplies, clothing & accessories, toys, crafts and activities.)**

We will be sharing an *Amazon wish list* link soon so you can shop right from your phone!



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Trunk or Treat

Join us on **Sunday, October 26** from **4:30-6:00pm** for our fun Trunk or Treat event. We will be looking for trunk hosts, so be planning how you'd like to decorate your trunk this year! Invite friends to join you!!



## OCC Shoebox Packing

We will be holding a shoebox packing event on **Wednesday, November 19**. Come for supper at 5:30pm and instructions begin at 6:15pm followed by packing shoeboxes. Save the date and join us as we assemble these wonderful gifts for children throughout the world.



## Operation Christmas Child

A PROJECT of SAMARITAN'S PURSE

## OCC Shoebox Drop-off

Did you know that the more drop off locations there are, the more shoeboxes Samaritan's Purse receives? For that reason, **Our Savior will once again be an official drop off location for Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes**. We will have drop off times for 2 or more hours every day from November 17-24. We will need your help.

- ★ We need people to greet and pray with those dropping off shoeboxes.
- ★ We will also need shoe box haulers and packers. All the shoeboxes we collect will need to be boxed up, loaded onto a trailer or truck and hauled to a warehouse in Plymouth, before they are delivered to Samaritan's Purse.

We are excited to serve our community and serve our God in this very tangible way with Samaritan's Purse and look forward to serving along side you.

Rena Hoernemann

## Youth Gathering 2025

This July, 19 youth and 6 leaders from Our Savior joined 20,000 Lutherans from all across the country and internationally in New Orleans for the LCMS Youth Gathering: "ENDURE" (Hebrews 12:1-3). It was an unforgettable week filled with faith, friends, and plenty of powdered sugar!

Each day, we gathered with thousands of other youth for mass events that shook the Superdome with music, worship, and powerful messages from God's Word. We dove into daily Bible studies and breakout sessions that helped us see what it means to endure in faith when life gets tough. We also had the chance to serve the people of New Orleans through community projects that were available in the interactive center, living out what it means to be the church in action.

Of course, we also got to experience some of what makes New Orleans so unique! We braved a swamp tour, yes, we saw real alligators up close, wandered the colorful streets of the French Quarter, and made sure not to leave without tasting the city's world-famous beignets. Let's just say, powdered sugar may have ended up on more than just the beignets!

Beyond the adventures and fun, what made the Gathering truly special was growing together as a group and being reminded to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, who helps us ENDURE in every season of life. We came home tired, full of stories, and most importantly, strengthened in faith. Ask us about our trip.

Joe Aurich





## Summer Camps

This summer we hosted two weeks of summer programming!

We had Camp Omega come in early July and spend a week with our elementary aged campers. This week had an average of **90 campers** and at least **50 volunteers** who helped in various ways. We learned about enduring faith through various Bible lessons, played fun games, learned camp songs, memory verses, made new friends and shared the love of Jesus with our community.

In late July, we hosted Vacation Bible School for preschool-5th grade students and had nearly **150 participants** and over **60 volunteers**. Our week was a jungle journey through the Bible and we had a LOT of fun! We learned new songs, played games and took a journey through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. We learned of God's promises and shared his love with many new friends.

What a blessing to offer these two weeks of summer programming! I'm grateful for supportive volunteers who help make these weeks possible. It is amazing to see so many families from our community who refer their friends to our programs! Praise God for all the lives we touch with the love of Jesus!

## Men's Game Day Highlights

We had a great time at the Men's Game Day on August 23. Twenty-one guys, including a few guests. Pastor opened with prayer. We had a 16 man pickleball tournament where David Z and Roger M squeaked out a victory. Jerry wore a T shirt that said "Warning I may begin to talk about Jesus at any time!" Pastor Adam quickly learned the game. The food was great thanks to Gary S and Tim S. Thanks to David for organizing the tournament.

## Prayer Ministry

As brothers and sisters in Christ, we are urged by St. Paul to be a people in prayer for each other and our nation. In 1 Timothy 2:1, St. Paul writes, *"First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people."*

The Prayer Chain consists of many faithful prayer warriors who lift up concerns and praises to God. You are encouraged to email prayer requests to [prayers@oslcs.org](mailto:prayers@oslcs.org) or [fred.limmel@oslcs.org](mailto:fred.limmel@oslcs.org). If you want the requests to be included in the Sunday bulletin's prayers, please specifically request that.

*A Time for Prayer* continues each **Thursday from 12:00-1:00pm**. Anyone is welcome to join us on Zoom as we specifically pray over the ministries of this church and its members. You can find the link on the Church Center calendar or you can email [fred.limmel@oslcs.org](mailto:fred.limmel@oslcs.org) to get the link.

## Care Ministry

Care Ministry includes offering meals: perhaps to parents when babies are born or for members following surgery or other challenging situations of life. We are searching for individuals interested in preparing meals for such an occasion.

Care Ministry also includes our Cradle Roll. The Cradle Roll supports the parents of newborns as well as children being baptized.

Pastor Fred



**VBS 2025**



## Our Savior School

### Enrollment

Infant—Spring 5, Summer 6, Fall 8

Licensed for 8 (full in September)

Toddler—Spring 15, Summer 15, Fall 15

Licensed for 14 (kids come on different days)  
Classroom with the biggest waiting list

Preschool (3yrs)—Spring 19, Summer 17, Fall 10

Licensed for 20 (low in the fall)

Preschool (4/5 yrs)—Spring 18, Summer 18, Fall 18

Licensed for 20

Kick Start Kindergarten—Spring 9, Summer N/A, Fall 9

Licensed for 10

### Toddler Room

We currently have one Toddler room for ages 16-33 months. We are planning to opening a 2nd Toddler Room for the fall of 2026. The rooms would then be 16-24 months and another for 24-33 months which would allow us to teach more developmentally appropriate skills for each age group.

### Staffing Update

We are fully staffed at this time with 9 teachers; 5 aides; 1 director; 1 office manager

### Donation

We received a substantial donation from a family and we are going to use that to refresh all the classrooms with painting and possibly new cabinet doors. We are also ordering new supplies for each classroom including furniture and toys with money from the Gala donations.

### Events:

- Many of our students attended VBS
- Llamas came to visit us for an onsite field trip
- We have two upcoming field trips to an apple orchard and to a theater.

### Professional Development

Our programs were closed on August 28-29. Staff and teachers of the Early Childhood Center and Extended Care completed their semi annual First Aid & CPR class and a mandatory eight hour licensing professional development day. The Early Childhood Center had an open house for families on Thursday.

Tami Finney



## From Pastor Adam

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In Matthew 11:28, Jesus says to His disciples, *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”*

These are words we need to hear often. As we prepare to enter the busy fall season, it’s easy to feel overwhelmed—closing up cabins, putting away campers, starting a new school year, athletic season, or chapter of life. In the midst of it all, we need to slow down and be reminded to come to Jesus, and to find our rest in Him.

Even though we know this truth, it can be hard to know *how to actually do it*. So here are a few simple ways I’d like to encourage you to be still and rest in Jesus this coming season:

- ◆ Be in God’s Word—Take 5–10 minutes each day to read a portion of the Bible. (Beginning in September, we’ll provide a four-week reading plan to help guide you.)
- ◆ Be in Prayer and Silence—Spend 5–10 minutes each day in intentional stillness before God. Talk to Him, and take time to listen.
- ◆ Worship—God refreshes us weekly through His Word and His Sacraments. Make regular worship a priority—it’s where we’re reminded that we’re not alone, and where grace meets us again and again.

There are many other ways to find rest in God, but if you prioritize these practices, I believe you will experience real peace in the midst of a full life. Let Jesus carry your burdens. Let Him take your weariness.

In Christ,  
Pastor Adam

### Men’s Game Day





September	
8/31	Single 10:00am Holiday Worship Service
2	First Day of School at Our Savior School Tuesday Pickleball at Victoria Rec Center (Weekly) 6:30pm-8:30pm
3	Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm
5	Rally Day Set-up 1:30pm
7	<b>Rally Day OUTDOOR single service 10:00am and Potluck</b> 6th-8th Gr Woven & 9th-12th Gr Elevate Youth Begins 6:30pm
8	Monday Bible Study Begins: The Messiah 3:30pm Cribbage 7:00pm
9	Women's Bible Study Begins: Equipping to Serve 1:00pm
10	Music Rehearsals Begin 6:00pm 5th-8th Gr Conf Parent Meeting 6:00pm Sunday School Teacher Meeting 6:30pm
11	Quilters resume 9:00am (Semi-monthly) A Time for Prayer 12:00pm (Weekly) Online Bible Study 9:00pm (Weekly)
12	Friday Men's Bible Study at Perkins Begins 6:15am
13	LWML Retreat at Camp Omega
14	Worship/Organ Dedication at 8:15am 🎵 Preservice Music begins at 8:00am 🎵 <b>Sunday School, Confirmation, Youth &amp; Men's/Women's Bible Study begins 9:30am</b>
18	American Heritage Girls Begins 6:30pm
24	Zoom Bible Study Begins 10:00am
28	Commitment Sunday

October	
5	3rd Graders Receiving Bibles LWML Ministry Sunday
7	Tuesday Pickleball at Victoria Rec Center (Weekly) 6:30pm-8:30pm
11	6th-8th Gr & 9th-12th Gr MNS Youth Day at Concordia, St. Paul
13	Cribbage 7:00pm
18	LWML Conference Rally at Redeemer Lutheran in Wayzata 9:00am
25	New Member Class 8:30-12:30pm
26	Budget Town Hall Meeting 9:30am <b>Trunk or Treat &amp; Supper 4:30-6:00pm</b>

November	
1	Blood Drive 9:00-3:00pm (Fellowship Hall) Youth Scrapbooking Fundraiser 9:00-9:00pm
7	<b>Women's Night Out at Unmapped Brewery 6:30pm</b>
8	Saturday Morning Pickleball Resumes 8:00-
9	6th Grade First Communion 10:45am
10	Cribbage 7:00pm
17-24	OCC Community Drop off Location at Our Savior
19	<b>Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Packing Event</b> Supper at 5:30, Instructions and Packing 6:15pm
21	Youth at Matthew West Concert
22	Community Center Set-up TBD
23	<b>Pancake Breakfast 8:00am</b> <b>Single Worship Service 10:00:00am</b> <b>Sunday School/Confirmation/9th-12th Gr Bible Study 11:15am</b> <b>Congregational Meeting at 11:15pm</b> <b>GriefShare Surviving the Holidays 1:00pm</b>
26	<b>Thanksgiving Eve Worship 6:30pm</b>
28	Christmas Decorating 9:00am

December	
3	<b>Christmas Concert: Choir Cantata 6:30pm</b>
TBD	God's Guys Christmas Fellowship TBD
7	Pre-8th Gr Christmas Practice 9:30am
8	Cribbage 7:00pm
TBD	Festival of Lights
10	<b>Advent Worship 6:30pm</b>
14	Pre-8th Gr Christmas Practice 9:30am 6th-12th Gr Christmas Party
17	Early Childhood Center Christmas Program <b>Advent Worship 6:30pm</b>
21	Christmas Cookie Sale for Missions <b>Pre-8th Gr Christmas Program 9:45am</b>
24	<b>Christmas Eve Worship 3:00 &amp; 5:00pm</b>
25	<b>Christmas Day Worship 10:00am</b>
25	Church & School Closed
28	Single Holiday Worship 10:00am
29	Blood Drive 1:00-7:00pm