

Living Generously

The stories behind the numbers...

Advent Greetings, Family of Faith,

It is that time of year when we are looking back and looking ahead at the same time as we wait and prepare our homes, families and selves to celebrate the birth of our Savior once again. We look back as we (or at least some of us) put together Christmas letters telling of the events of our families during the past year. We look ahead as we think about 2018 and what might be. We look back and ahead as we prepare the annual report and the financial mission plan for our family of faith. In doing so I am once again reminded of how blessed I am to be serving a congregation that knows what it means to be living generously.

Several people have recently asked how our congregation is doing financially. It is with great thankfulness and gratitude that I can report things are going well for the congregation financially. As of the end of November our income is greater than our expenses. We anticipate ending 2017 in the black thanks to the generosity of each and every one of you. So why don't I talk about the numbers more? For me the answer is simple. It is not about the numbers. It is about the ministry that is happening. Dwelling on numbers can be misleading and sometimes depressing. Focusing on the stories allows us to see how God is working through each and every one of us as we do God's work with our hands.

But for you numbers people, here are a few important ones...

76

Average
Worship
Attendance

\$2015.60

Average
Worship
Offering

100

People who have
helped with Care
and Serve duties on
Sunday mornings

50

Average
Number of
D.O.G. Night Kids
during 2016-2017
school year

73

Average
Number of D.O.G.
Night Kids during
2017-2018
school year

26

Number of Adults
involved with
D.O.G. Night

22

7th - 12th Graders a
part of the OSL
Community Youth
Group

\$6445.96

Plus numerous
items given through
Mission of the
Month

\$115,000

Amount of income
needed to fully
fund our ministry in
2017

26

Youth and Adults
headed to the 2018
ELCA National
Youth Gathering

32

Number of children
and adults receiving
Christmas gifts this
year through Nov.
Mission of the Month

These are just a few of the numbers which represent the stories that arise from a congregation who is filled with the Holy Spirit, open to being God's hands and feet and living generously. Thank you for all of the ways you have "let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven" in 2017. It is with great joy and anticipation I look forward to living generously with all of you in 2018!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Pastor Deb ☺



WELCA will meet on December 12th at 9:30 AM in the church basement. We will begin our morning with our Bible study which is a Christmas Devotional: **“Joy to the World”**. Pastor Deb will lead our study. There are extra “Gather” magazines in the church office which have our study in them. After our bible study we will have a potluck snack, so everyone bring a little bit of something to share. We will also have a short business meeting and discuss our 2017-18 Mission Project. Hope to see all of you there!!!



December 12th and 26th



All men are invited to gather for food and fellowship at the **Men's Breakfast** every other Tuesday morning at **7:00** in the church Fellowship Hall.



January

CARE & SERVE TEAM!

Team members are:

Roger & Betty Dikoff

Alan & Cindy Platt

Dennis & Kathy Thompson

Team members can meet up Dec. 17th to discuss dates/duties.

If you have not yet volunteered, please do so by contacting Joy Neugebauer, Conni Virtue, or Josie in the church office. Anyone not already on a team is always welcome to help serve any time they feel the want.

Second Sunday Brunch

The whole community is invited!!
Sunday, December 10th
8:30-2:00

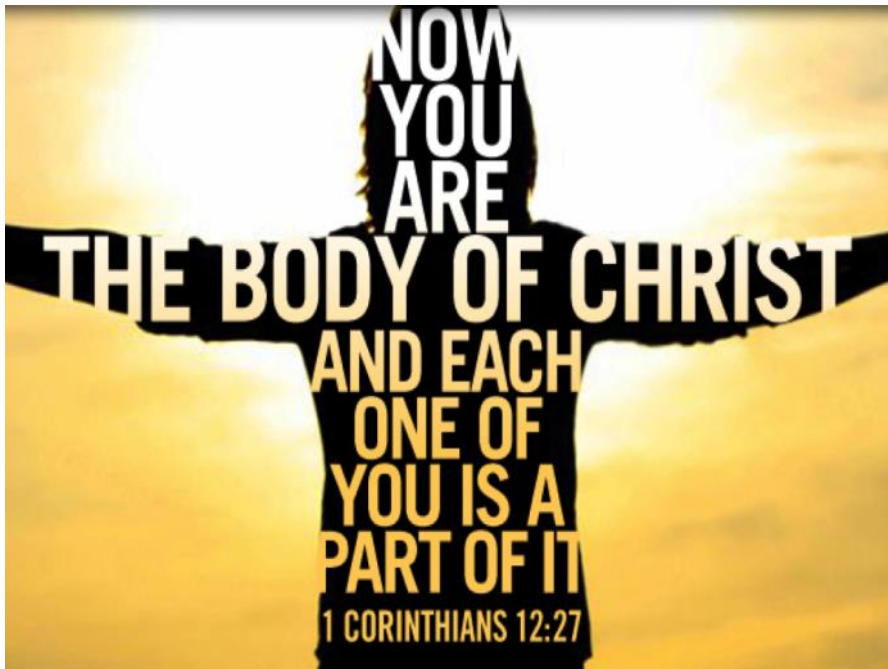
Our Savior's Lutheran Church
 Come and eat before/after the church service, or during the “An Afternoon in Bethlehem” event!



Delicious Menu

- Breakfast Burritos
- Sloppy Joes
- Fruit salad
- Vegetable platter
- Sweet Treats
- Drinks

Freewill Donation will go towards sending our Youth Group to The ELCA National Youth Gathering in Houston 2018



Church Council Positions Available for 2018!!

- 2 members - 3 year term
- 1 member - 1 year term
- 1 alternate

If you would be interested in being a part of the OSL church council, please let Pastor Deb or a council member know.

Our church is doing big things in this little community and there are opportunities to sit at the table and be a HUGE part of that!

The Annual Meeting of OSL will be held on Sunday, January 21, 2018. A chili cook-off is being planned. Watch the January newsletter for more information!

HERMOSA/FAIRBURN COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

OPEN Thursday,
December 21st
3:00-5:00pm



Located at Heartland Hair
300 E Main St. Hermosa
For information please contact
Lois at 255-5299.



The most wonderful time of the year!

December is a month filled with love, humanity, gift giving events, and random acts of kindness. It's also the time of year the Hermosa Newsletter requests your help in supporting our local *Hermosa/Fairburn Food Bank.*

For just a 10.00 donation the Newsletter will put a Holiday Greeting from you, your family, and/or your business, in the December or January issue.

This small amount will help others have a joyous Christmas, by purchasing the needed perishable items for families in need.

Thank you for your generosity!

**Please mail your \$10.00 to
Hermosa Newsletter
PO Box 232
Hermosa SD 57744**

Pastor Deb's New Schedule

Pastor Deb is now volunteering at the Hermosa School Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8:00 am – 10:00 am.

- Monday:** 10:30 am to 5:30 pm at the office
- Tuesday:** Bible Study groups – In and out of the office in-between Bible studies
- Wednesday:** 10:30 am to 9:00 pm – office time and D.O.G. Night ministry
- Thursday:** Out visiting others for most of the day
- Friday:** Day off
- Saturday:** Work from home
- Sunday:** Worship, meetings, Youth Group and other events

NOTICE:
Important Calendar
Change

Advent Bible
Study Date Change

The week of
Dec. 17-23

Bible Study dates/times will be:
Monday Dec. 18th 7:00am and 8:30am
Tuesday Dec. 19th 5:30pm



JOIN US FOR AN AMAZING AFTERNOON IN BETHLEHEM!

Wander with us through the Bethlehem marketplace, to hear what the people have to say about the unexpected birth of Jesus.

At “An Afternoon in Bethlehem,” children and their families will explore the city, the day after Jesus’ birth. Through hands-on experiences they’ll find out about the most important baby ever—and learn that Jesus came to save us.

WHERE: Our Savior’s Lutheran Church

WHEN: Sunday, December 10th 12:00-2:00

Also included, Brunch and Bake Sale Fundraiser by the
OSL Community Youth Group



Do you like to bake? The OSL Community Youth Group is looking for donations for their bake sale on December 10. Items can be dropped off at the church on or before Dec. 9. The youth will package and price them. Thank you in advance for your support!



**A very special ‘Thank You’ to
EVERYONE that celebrated with us,
prayed for us, sent us warm wishes, and
showed us their love on our wedding
weekend! It was absolutely magical!! We
are thankful for the people we have
surrounding us, wishing us the very best.
Donavon and Josie Main**

Photo credit: Tracy Spaans Photography and Design

October Church Council Meeting Highlights

November 26, 2017

Members present: Greg Neugebauer, Adare Diers, Emily Dirkes, Marie Kennedy, and Butch Rudd

Also present: Pastor Deb Grismer, Mike Baschnagel, and Josie Main

The agenda and Council Minutes from October 22, 2017 were approved.

***The Treasurer's Report - Reported by Mike.** The financials were reviewed, as well as the current mission plan status. It was decided that the different church committees would get Mike their projections for funds needed in 2018 for their various projects so he could have figures for next year's mission plan.

***Property Committee- Reported by Butch.** The flooring and painting in the downstairs classroom and storage room is complete.

***Worship Committee- Reported by Marie.** The musicians met and completed their schedule for the next few months on who would be playing each week. The praise team is requesting a surround microphone if the funds are available for better sound quality.

***Missions Committee-** No report made this meeting

***Youth Committee- Reported by Pastor Deb.** The up-coming events were discussed, holiday childcare, 2nd Sunday Brunch, and An Afternoon in Bethlehem. There are 22 youth going to the 2018 ELCA National Youth Gathering, and they will be accompanied by 4 adults. Fundraising for that trip continues.

***Education Committee- Reported by Adare.** The new D.O.G. Night schedule was discussed. It's still a little too early to decide if the change is making a huge difference in the engagement of the children. The puppet ministry is going to return to OSL to further our ministry.

***Outreach Committee-** No report made this meeting

***Pastor Deb's Report-** There will be a new church sign that will be replacing the current OSL sign. It will include the service times of OSL, the UCC Church, and St. Michael's. All three churches are splitting the cost of the sign. The annual meeting was discussed with a date set for January 21, 2018. The church will need two new members for 3 year terms and one new member for a 1 year term and one alternate added to the council for 2018.



Treasurer's Report

Date *Attendance* *Offering*

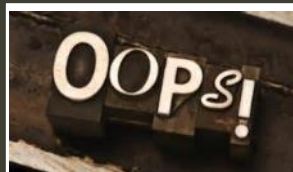
<i>Date</i>	<i>Attendance</i>	<i>Offering</i>
November 5	85	2248
November 12	103	2199
November 19	60	1620
November 26	55	1347
Averages	76	1854

November's 'Mission of the Month' giving totaled \$272 in monetary donations, plus all the wonderful gifts donated under the Thanksgiving tree, which will help local families have a wonderful Christmas.

Thank you OSL for your generosity!



Every single tag was taken off the tree, and over **30 tags** were taken last Sunday to fill gift requests for needing families. We have an amazing congregation!



Church Bulletin Bloopers

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

The Fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals.

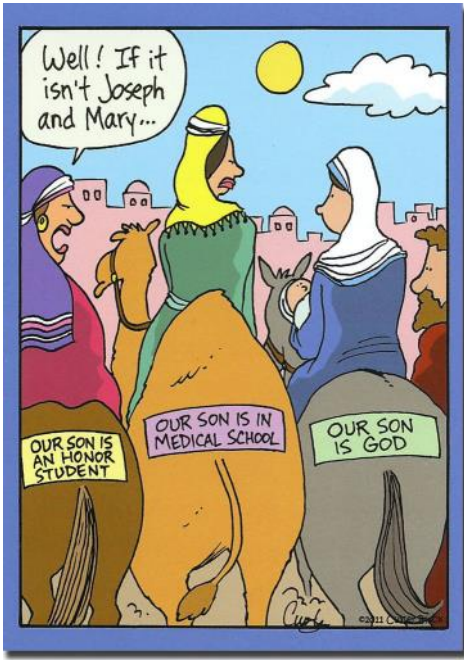
The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on Water.'

The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Candy Bars are coming!!



The OSL Community Youth Group will be selling \$1 candy bars very soon to help fundraise for their trip to Houston next summer. Looking for a delicious stocking stuffer? Keep watch for the chocolate!



Community Christmas Dinner

Christmas Day dinner is a time to gather together with friends and family to share a meal, fellowship and afternoon fun. Are you looking for a place to gather? The OSL Outreach Committee invites you, whether you are a family of one or a family of many, to gather with them.

WHERE: Our Savior's Lutheran Church
WHEN: Christmas Day, Dec. 25th, 12:00pm

Dinner will be provided, with fun activities to follow. RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED. Please call Josie at 605-255-4662 to sign-up by Monday, Dec. 18th.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Youth's Name: _____

Purchaser's Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Total Donation: _____

Please fill out this portion and tear/cut off from certificate. Keep the stock certificate and return this portion with your donation to:
 Pastor Deb Grismer
 Our Savior's Lutheran Church
 PO Box 136
 Hermosa, SD 57744
 *Checks can be made out to OSL Youth Group.

\$25 Stock Certificate \$25

"FOR BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED THROUGH FAITH, AND THIS IS NOT YOUR OWN DOING; IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD."
EPHESIANS 2:8

Thank you for taking stock in my faith formation by helping me get to the 2018 ELCA National Youth Gathering in Houston. I greatly appreciate your financial and prayer support.

Youth Signature

In return for your donation:
 *I will send you a postcard from Houston during the Gathering.
 *If possible, email/text updates and photos from the Gathering.
 *You are invited to attend our Stockholders' Dinner on July 11, 2018 at 6:30 pm at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. This event will include a simple but fun meal along with participants sharing about their Gathering experience.
 *I will do my best to make the most of this faith building experience to deepen my relationship with God and others as well as learn as much as possible.

You have an opportunity to purchase stock in our youth!

There are 22 8th-12th grade youth (from the OSL Community Youth Group and the Trinity Youth Group in Edgemont) going to Houston next summer for the ELCA National Youth Gathering. **Yes, 22 children!!!!** And 4 lucky adults that get to accompany them. Once in Houston, they will be joined by 30,000 other youth and their leaders to learn, serve, worship, sing, and connect with God, others, and our world in a very unique way.

Our youth are working very hard to raise the funds needed to make this trip a reality. We are estimating we need about \$1500 per person for this 9 day adventure. This includes the registration fee, bus ride, rooms, food, and other expenses.

Please consider helping make this trip a reality for these kids and invest in our Youth's faith formation!

(For a list of the youth going, please see Pastor Deb or Josie.)

Holiday shopping is **HARD** when
your kids are in tow!

OSL Community Youth Group is here to help!



December 9th and 16th

5:00-8:00pm

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Dinner provided for children

Drop off your children at OSL, and enjoy an evening of peaceful shopping, wrapping presents, or maybe just having a nice date-night out.

Minimum donation of \$2.50 per child/hour

*All donations will go towards sending our youth to the 2018 ELCA National Youth Gathering, or other summer trips.



Coming Soon!

**FREE Grief
Recovery Seminar**

Topics:

****Myths of grieving****

****Debunking the stages of grief****

****Review of Grief Recovery Method****

****Hints and Helps for
Grievers and Helpers.****

Open to the entire community!

Presented by Margie Neugebauer, MA,
LPC. Certified Coach and Certified Grief
Recovery Specialist®



*Praying for one another is vital to our
community of faith and part of being a
member of the priesthood of all believers.
If you or a family member wishes to be
included in this printed prayer list, please
contact Josie in the church office.*

We pray for the comfort and strength for those who have recently lost loved ones., especially the friends and family of **Anne** (Adare's sister.)



We pray for the health and healing of those ill or hospitalized and their caregivers, including **Roger Bahnson, Hank Holwegner, Bart Banks, and Bernie Quaschnick.**



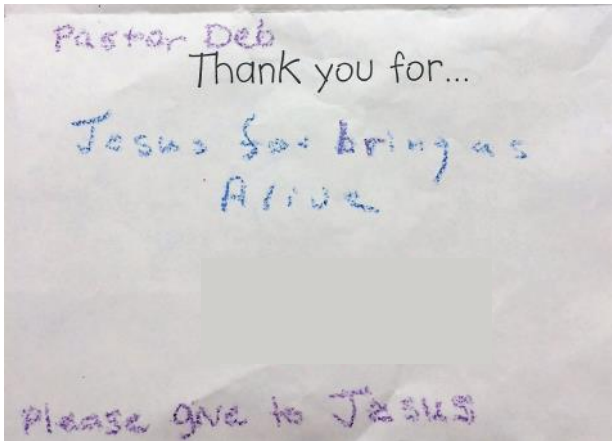
We pray for those with ongoing concerns: **Rodney Shay, Jay Conrad** (Peg's nephew), **Talon Gibson** (Tenaya (Preston) Gibson's son), **Larry Fritz, Kelly Edwards, Glenyce** (Carla's cousin), **Heidi** (Hunsaker's niece), **Dennis and Leona Hempler** (Dixie Clark's brother), **Dorothy Schneekloth** (Chic's sister-in-law), and **Beverly Conrad** (Peg's sister)



Bible Study Opportunity for Advent!

Together in Advent Bible study with Pastor Deb. *See the calendar for dates and times

In this Advent Bible study we will explore the biblical backgrounds of being present, sending peace, sharing joy and wrapping in love in preparation for Christ's birth this Advent.



Introducing “MINISTRY MOMENTS”

In the last couples weeks at D.O.G. Night, we have been discussing the importance of being thankful. The children were asked to write out a thank you card, thanking someone for something specific. One of the children brought Pastor Deb the card he made. When she said, “Thank you so much,” the child said, “Oh, it’s not for you. I want you to mail it to Jesus!” He was so excited for Jesus to receive his letter, thanking him for “bringing us alive,” that he called Pastor Deb twice, to make sure she had sent it off. He then asked her if Jesus had responded yet the next time he saw her. If you are ever wondering if D.O.G. Night is making a difference...IT IS!

*Sharing the good news, and providing ministry can happen anywhere...and it’s contagious. If you see or hear of any “ministry moments” when you are out in the community or with others, please email Josie or Pastor Deb with that story, so we can share it as well.



The old saying, “news travels fast”...Wherever I go someone asks me, “How are you doing?” I want to thank everyone for the concern, prayers and well wishes. All tests came out great. I’ve come to my own conclusion -dehydration! What a wonderful Church Family!

-Carol Neugebauer

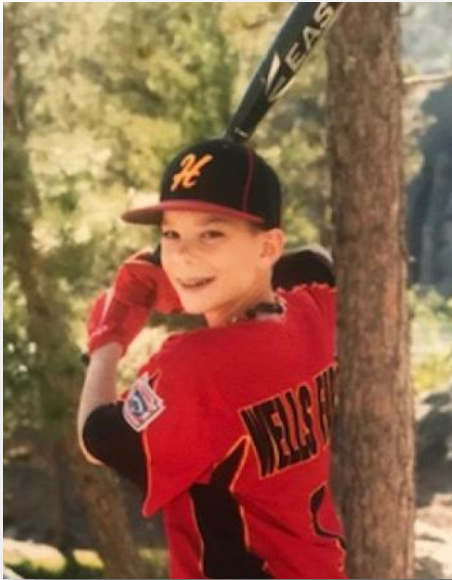
I want to say THANK YOU to you, Pastor Deb, and your wonderful congregation. We have been so blessed by you all!

-Teena Conrad, Cornerstone Rescue Mission-
Homeless Veterans Ministry



Mission of the Month

Talon Gibson



Talon Gibson, a 12 year old from Hermosa, has recently been diagnosed with Neurological Lyme Disease. Talon's symptoms have become so debilitating that he can no longer attend school or participate in sports. There is currently no cure for Lyme. Treatment to keep infection at bay is extremely expensive, and insurance will not cover most of the treatments. Our Mission of the Month for December will help with the expenses, estimated to be well over \$200,000, to allow Talon to continue receiving treatments. (Please write checks to Our Savior's with "Mission" in the memo line.)

To read more about the disease, and see updates on Talon's journey, go to: gofundme.com/talongibson.



Our Savior's Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 136
Hermosa, SD 57744

Website: oslhermosa.com
E-mail: osl@mt-rushmore.net

Worship Time
Sunday 9:30 am

1st & 3rd Sundays Communion

Coffee Hour 10:30



Our Mission: "We invite, encourage, educate and empower all people to follow God and serve others."