



# TIDINGS

“To walk with Christ and neighbor, healing brokenness together.”

## In this Issue...

Article.....	1
Specials.....	2
Announcements.....	3
Calendar.....	4
Prayers.....	6
Celebrations.....	6
Sharing Our Talents.....	7
Additional.....	8

## Readings

- January 7**  
**Baptism of Our Lord**  
**Wearry World:**  
*Trust our Belovedness*  
Isaiah 43:1-7  
Mark 1:4-11
- January 14**  
**2nd Sunday after Epiph.**  
Amos 5:18-24  
Luke 4:16-21
- January 21**  
**3rd Sunday after Epiph.**  
Isaiah 42:1-4  
Matthew 25:31-46
- January 28**  
**4th Sunday after Epiph.**  
Psalm 13  
Mark 1:21-28

## Fundraising for OSLC Youth

This Month’s Opportunity:  
**January 14, 2024**  
2nd Sunday of each month  
From 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
at BOTH Don & Millie’s locations  
When you order, tell the cashier you are there for Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church Youth and 20% of what you spend on food & drinks will go to our OSLC Youth.



## “What’s in a Name?”

*“That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet.”  
‘Romeo and Juliet,’ Act II, Scene II, by William Shakespeare*

### Names don’t change people. People redefine their names.

Mark and I spent weeks choosing our child’s name before he was born. Mark liked the name ‘Seth.’ It was the name of the angel played by Nicholas Cage in the movie City of Angels. It’s the name of Adam and Eve’s third son. It seemed to fit our little peanut of a child. Seth was easy-going and forgiving. He slept through the night after about 2 months. He usually didn’t mind too much being dragged to multiple worship services each weekend, crawling around on the nursery floor with Karrie, playing with cars in the pew, and flying circles around me with his space shuttle while I was preaching.

He was a thinker and planner, coming up with all sorts of ideas of things to build—a ghost busters power pack, a spaceship made out of cardboard. We would find him laughing hysterically at YouTube videos or getting sucked down the rabbit hole of video games.

Many of you were in worship or participated online when Seth gave a milestone in November. “I want you to know that I am transgender and will be using she/her pronouns.” We had been discussing it since August. It had come up a few years ago. And now, it is a reality. And I can’t be more proud of my child—my self-assured, kind, intelligent, sensitive daughter.

She hasn’t changed who she is in this process. She still loves cars and video games. She’s still designing and planning elaborate things in her head—usually while dawdling in the shower. She’s still forgiving and easy-going. She still loves making music.

On January 7, we get to celebrate Our Saviour’s becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation. I am so grateful that you are as welcoming and affirming as you are. While I could have never anticipated this process and my child’s transition coinciding as they have, you have no idea how blessed I feel to know that OSLC is a safe place for her to share who she is fully. Therefore, also on January 7, we will bless her new name—a name she chose, a name that suits her. Avery.

What’s in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet. But names matter. They affirm our identity. It will be important for you to begin using Avery’s chosen name and pronouns (she/her). You’ll forget. You’ll make mistakes. Just backtrack and try again. And if you forget, just use ‘Child of God.’ You can’t go wrong.

In Christ,  
*Pastor Tobì White*

## Brought to you by OSLC Faith-to-Face Recovery Ministry

A Vision for OSLC: Imagine members of your congregation being equally comfortable publicly asking for prayer “for my father with alcohol dependence” as “for my mother with cancer.



For more info on how you can be involved contact your Faith Partners Team : 402-483-4126 or Otto at 402-770-1974.

Call or Text.  
You are not  
alone.



**NEEDS...** We know the Lutheran Food Pantry is a blessing to hungry families in our community and we are thankful for your donations and prayers in making it successful.

### Items that are especially needed at this time are:

- \*\*Breakfast bars (Pop Tarts, granola bars, oatmeal/fruit bars)
- \*\*Canned pears
- \*\*Cereals, dry
- \*\*Dry dinners (Hamburger Helper)
- \*\*Fruit juice, small boxes/packets/bottles
- \*\*Jelly and jam
- \*\*Macaroni and cheese
- \*\*Pasta, dry (spaghetti, macaron, noodles, etc.)
- \*\*Peanut butter
- \*\*Pork and beans
- \*\*Spaghetti sauce
- \*\*Snack items (small packages of cookies, nuts, fruit flavored snacks, etc.)
- \*\*Personal care items (shampoo, bar soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes)
- Canned fruits (peaches, pears, mandarin oranges, pineapple, fruit cocktail)
- Canned meals (ravioli, SpaghettiOs, etc.)
- Canned variety beans (chili, kidney, pinto)
- Canned meats (tuna, chicken, spam)
- Canned vegetables (\*\*especially mixed vegetables, peas, corn, green beans)
- Instant oatmeal packets
- Fruit juice, large bottles
- Pancake mix and syrup
- Potatoes, boxed instant mashed
- Ramen noodles
- Rice, one or two pound packages
- Saltine crackers
- Soups, condensed (vegetable, chicken noodle, tomato, cream of chicken, cream of mushroom)
- Tomatoes, canned

### Other items we always need include:



# Celebrate with us this Epiphany!

‘Epiphany’ refers to the appearance of God and how we perceive God and God’s work among us. This Epiphany season, we are celebrating the image of God in our diversity as we celebrate becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation. The themes focus on those we lift up in our welcome statement:

- Jan. 7—LGBTQ+ & Name Blessing on Baptism of Our Lord
- Jan. 14—Black, Indigenous, and People of Color
- Jan. 21—Those who are/have been incarcerated
- Jan. 28—Those living with mental health and addiction issues
- Feb. 4—Those who are differently abled
- Feb. 11—Metamorphosis: Remembering who we are on Transfiguration Sunday

We have invited various communities and church leaders to celebrate with us on January 7 at our 9am service. A Brunch will follow worship and give us time to get to know each other. Please make it a point to wear a provided nametag that day when you come to worship.



## Small Group Sunday Mornings

Join one of 3 small groups on Sunday mornings during Education Hour (Jan. 14, 21, 28, & Feb. 4) as we delve more deeply into chosen topics.

- **“Breaking the Curse of Willie Lynch”** by Alvin Morrow. This group will explore the power of racism that continues to be prevalent, though less obvious, in today’s world.
- **“A New Family”** video series featuring Rachel Held Evans. This group will learn how we might open hearts, minds, and doors to a new definition of family for us and our church.
- **“To Become One”** video series featuring Christena Cleveland. This group will be challenged by the disunity of the church and how we can respond with hope and courage.

Our desire is to foster deeper conversation through the use of smaller gatherings over a shared desire in topic. These groups may extend beyond Sunday mornings, and the topics will be offered in other places/times, if requested so that you don’t miss out on one while choosing another.

## Sharing Our Talents



Altar Flower sign-up is near the front doors (cost is \$30).  
FEAST Meals: Contact Lindsey at foodministry.oslc@gmail.com

Date	January 7	January 14	January 21	January 28
Altar Flowers	Mark & Tobi White in honor of Avery White	Mary Barton in memory of Ben Splichal-Larson		
Altar Guild	Don Witt, Gail Laursen, Jerry Varner, Jim & Deb Schmidt, Milan & Sue Ellen Wall			
FEAST Meal Provider	Lindsey	Lindsey	Lindsey	Lindsey
OSLC Meal Delivery	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN

### Staff

**Pastor:** Tobi White  
lincolnpastor.oslc@gmail.com / 402-304-7660  
**Director of Discipleship:** Karrie Lickliter  
discipleship.oslc@gmail.com  
**Director of Social Ministries:** Alissa Ries  
outreach.oslc@gmail.com / 402-440-6791  
**Director of Worship, Music & Arts:** Sam Eschliman  
wma.oslc@gmail.com  
**Office Manager/Bookkeeper:** Laura Pester  
lpester.oslc@gmail.com  
**Director of Food & Sustainability:** Lindsey Engel  
**Worship Tech Support:** Kevin Gunter

### Council

**Council President:** Mike Rapp  
mrapp@stev.org  
**Vice President:** Judd Chatelain  
**Council Secretary:** Janette Johnson  
**Council Treasurer:** Jeff Barton  
jeffbarton52@yahoo.com  
**Council Property Steward:** Kent Reinhard  
**Congregational Care Team Mission Advocate:**  
**Stewardship/Sustainability Team Mission Advocate:** Mike Kocher  
**Outreach Ministry Team Mission Advocate:** Tammy Hanson  
**Faith Formation Team Mission Co-Advocate:** Diana Vech  
**OSL Foundation President:** Gary Hein —gw.hein@gmail.com

## January Worship Schedule Sundays, 9am—in person & livestream

- Sun., Jan. 7** Worship w/ communion (intinction)  
Music: Sam; Liturgy: Various
- Sun., Jan. 14** Worship w/ communion (individual cups)  
Music: Choir; Liturgy: Various
- Sun., Jan. 21** Worship w/ communion (intinction)  
Music: Set Free; Liturgy: Various
- Sun., Jan. 24** Worship w/ communion (individual cups)  
Music: Bells; Liturgy: Various

### OSLC Leadership Mission Statement

“Called and compelled by our hope in Jesus Christ, we empower our community to care, learn, teach, lead, and serve.”

### OSLC Food Philosophy

Food is a gift of God’s grace that brings us together for the growth and nourishment of body, soul, and community.





## In our church family prayers, we remember:

*Because we, the Body of Christ, carry each other through trials, struggles, and celebrations...*

**Those Needing Support:** Mary Jo Vitamvas, Victoria Heaton, Laura & Neil, Cathy Matz, Dwaine Rogge, LaDonna Halstead, Russell Wardlow, Loice, Nancy, Mandy Searle, Manny Yezina, Melanie Fowler, Frank Moore, Lorena Moore, Jordan Hein, Harry Herrington, Anita Matejka, Kaitlyn, Jessica Russell, Brian & Brandon Jacobs, DaQuan Love, Robert Garza, Bobi Martinez

**Homebound:** Jan Albers, Betty Alm, Cooper Dennis, Sandee Fruhling, Eloise Landgren, Norm Leach, Naomi Maske, Jenifer Nelson, Marlin Pals, Dorothy Wise

**First Responders & Military Personnel:** Coty Surrounded, Jonah Lux, Tolle Yoder, Noah Yoder, Matthew Salomons

**Partners in Mission:** Lincoln Area Cluster Congregations, Kimangaro Parish in Tanzania

**Justice & Peace:** Victims of bullies of all kinds and ages; Maternity Healthcare; For those with no place to sleep tonight.

**Grieving:** Elaine Peters and family at the death of her husband, Rich; Family and friends of Wally Albers;

**Name Blessing:** Avery White



1—Diana Grabarkewitz, Manny Yezina  
3—Sidney McCartney  
4—Emily Vantine  
5—Willa Foster Jones, David Rus  
7—Jared Scherling, Jozina Shirima-Lekule  
8—Cindy Humann  
9—Emily Dresbach  
10—Sally Foster  
11—Karen Beatty, Robert Lundberg  
13—Gabriel Lekule  
14—Lorene Geer, Kathy Hanford  
15—Ray Hadley  
18—Jordan Olsen  
19—Randy Kolman  
21—Tyler Farmer  
22—David Larson, Paul Nordin  
23—Brea Rathje  
24—Lupe Saathoff  
25—Stu Essman  
26—Alex Farmer, Jodi Kocher  
29—Eloise Landgren  
30—Clara Arfmann, Kim Gaye, Sandy Maxwell, Deb Schmidt  
31—Reita Farmer



8—Lance Meinke & Lisa Silberman  
16—Dave & Elsa Larson

## Poinsettias

**Sandra Anderson & Nikki Krause** -- In memory of Ivan Anderson

**Paul & Rebecca Bartlett** – In memory of loved ones

**Mary Barton** – In memory of Henry & Helen & Paul Ahrendt

**Steve Beal** – In memory of Robert Beal

**Pam Brunke** – In memory of Rich and in honor of Dawn, Shane, Joel, Jenny, Ashlynn & Landen

**Tammy Hanson** – In memory of Roland & Marlene Schafer & sister Coleen

**Rita Harrison** – In memory of John Harrison

**Gary & Wanda Hein** – In memory of our parents

**Jonathan & Patti Jensen** – In memory of Rupert & Enid Jensen & Thomas & Lila Gregory

**Janette Johnson** – In memory of Lorin & Virginia Harms

**Renae Johnson** – In memory of my beloved ancestors

**Dave & Elsa Larson** – In memory of our parents and Elsa's siblings

**Karrie Lickliter** – In memory of Stanley, Dennis & Roger

**Lonnie & Janet Miller** – In memory of Roland & Leola Carlson and Clel & Ardella Miller

**Denise Pohlmann** – In memory of Carrie Varner

**Alissa Ries** – In memory of Harold Ries

**Marty Rus** – In memory of Jerry Rus

**Lona & Steve Thompson** – In memory of friends Richard & Deanna Turner; parents Robert Gooder & Jim & Marlene Thompson

**Delmar & Alice Timm** – In honor of family

**Don Witt** – In memory of Kay Witt & Joan Cowan

## Discipleship

*Because we know we learn and grow best in faith when we do it together. And we value that growth in children and adults of every age...*

**Cool Beans Bible Study** Fun topics for a fun group on Tuesdays at 6:30p.m. in the BAC. Will begin again in March. Watch for details.

**Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study** Is taking a break. We will begin our study on the Book of Daniel on Tuesday, January 9th at 1pm in the Founder's Room with a zoom option.

**Book Study - Breaking the Curse of Willie Lynch** Join us during the adult ed hour on Sunday's at 10:15a.m. for a study of Alvin Morrow's book Breaking the Curse of Willie Lynch. We will learn about the origins and science of slave psychology and how we can unite, break out, and free ourselves from this vicious cycle of history which continues to affect us all. Books can be purchased on Amazon and a few will be available for purchase at our first session (approximately \$10 per copy). Questions? Contact Alissa.

**Joint Youth Lock-In** 8th-12th grades are invited to a lock-in with First Lutheran, Sheridan & Southwood churches. Friday, January 5, 7pm-January 6, 7am. at Sheridan Lutheran, 70th & Old Cheney. Students must sign up with Karrie by Jan. 4. We will go to the YMCA for swimming; have a service project, games, etc. Cost is \$20 each. Contact Karrie with questions or to sign up.

**Mini VBS: January 2-4, 2024—varying times.** This intergenerational opportunity to serve and learn together is brought to you by OSLC & First Lutheran Church. Activities will include serving at Matt Talbot Kitchen, helping at Center for People, cookie-baking, assembling care kits, packing boxes at the Lutheran Food Pantry, and more. Events will begin at First Lutheran church at 70th & A Streets. Contact Karrie with questions and to register.

**Middle School Gathering** January 13th & 14th at Sheridan Lutheran, 70th & Old Cheney. Registration begins at 9am; the program begins at 10am. Dismissal is Sunday after Worship, time TBD. Cost is \$50 each which includes 3 meals, evening snacks, t-shirt & supplies. Scholarships are available. Registration deadline is December 30th. Register with Karrie: 402-430-5383

**New Member Classes** Anyone interested in learning more about OSLC or becoming a member is invited to our class on Wednesday evenings, 6:00-6:45p.m. during Lent (February 21 through March 20). Curriculum will include Animate: Faith materials, as well as information on the history of the Church and the congregation. Members will be received during Worship on Easter Sunday, March 31st. If you know of someone who might be interested, please provide that information to Karrie: discipleship.oslc@gmail.com.

**EDUCATION HOUR (Sundays, 10:15a.m.)**

**Dec. 24 & 31**—NO Education Hour OR Sunday School

**Jan. 7**—RIC Celebration Brunch

**Jan. 14 - Feb. 4**—Small Groups (see pg. 2 for details)

## Events & Notices

*Because we believe in relationships, opportunities to bless one another, and grow together...*

**Winter's Eve Gathering** Join the 'Holy Hygge' group for a cozy evening of simple surroundings, calming conversation, warming candlelight, hot beverages, delicious food, and friendly games at our "Winter's Eve Gathering" to be held on **Sunday night, January 14th, 2024**. Come to OSLC with your friends and family at 6:00 pm to have a "hyggeelig" experience of casual fellowship and community growth.

"Hygge" (Hoo-Guh) is a European lifestyle of renewal, healing, simplicity, and togetherness. Paired with our Christian practices of hospitality, relationship building, and contentment, it is an approach to life that can encourage our faith and friendships to grow. So, join us on the 14th to 'just be' and see what hygge feels like!

**Sunday Meal Delivery**—If you know someone in the congregation who would benefit from receiving a pre-made lunch, please contact Lindsey at foodministry.oslc@gmail.com. We are looking for delivery volunteers, as well. Sign up online.

*Because we know that it takes a whole community to make a difference in the world...*

**The Hero Within - Veteran's Club book study** - Attention all Veterans! Starting in January, Alissa is leading the men of the Veteran's Club at the Nebraska State Penitentiary (NSP) in a study on Soul Injuries using Deborah Grassman's book: The Hero Within: Redeeming The Destiny We Were Born To Fulfill. Non-veterans interested are also welcome. Participants must complete an application and receive prior approval from NDCS to attend. This approval can take up to a month to complete. Please contact Alissa ASAP for details. The group meets twice a month on Tuesday evening from 5:30pm-8pm inside NSP.

**Lincoln Nebraska's Reintegration Program Seeking Volunteers** The RIP provides fellowship and classes facilitated by community members and former inmates. Recent classes have included training in PTSD Trauma, 12 step programs, life skills, and more. Food is provided, and each session ends with a banquet where certificates are awarded. Women and men meet separately and taught by their same-gendered counterparts. If you are interested in leading a class, the next session begins January 8, 2024. See Teresa Kai for an application.

**Angel Tree Thank You!** Thanks to your generosity, Teresa and Pastor Dave delivered gifts to 16 children in Lincoln and 2 in Columbus—kids of people who are currently incarcerated. Thank you so much for our "angels" at Our Saviour's, who helped make this Christmas extra special for children this year.

**Youth Thank You!** Thanks to your generosity, our High School students raised \$920.00 for the "Gifts for Teens" program through Center for People! Add the \$700.00 match from the Good Samaritan Fund and we have a total of \$1,620.00! This means we were able to supply 81 gift cards for Christmas presents for teens in our Community! Thank you for showing our Teens what it means to be caring & generous!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>Dec. 31</div> <div><i>New Year's Eve</i> 8:30a.m. Coffee/Fellowship (A) <b>9:00a.m. Worship (S)—live-stream</b> <i>NO Education Hour or Sunday School</i> 11:30a.m. FEAST Lunch (FH) 7:30p.m. AA Meeting (FH)</div>	<div>1</div> <div><i>New Year's Day</i> <i>Office Closed</i></div>	<div>2</div> <div><b>Mini VBS (9am)</b>  7:00p.m. Mary/Martha Group (FC)</div>	<div>3</div> <div><b>Mini VBS (9am)</b></div>	<div>4</div> <div><b>Mini VBS (in the evening)</b>  7:00a.m. Men's Study (FC)</div>	<div>5</div> <div>    HS Youth Lock-in @ Sheridan →</div>	<div>6</div> <div>10:00a.m. Layettes of Love (CR) TBD Novotny Graduation (BAC)</div>
<div>7</div> <div><i><b>RIC Celebration!</b></i> 8:30a.m. Coffee/Fellowship (A) <b>9:00a.m. Worship (S)—live-stream</b> <b>10:15a.m. Celebration Brunch</b> 7:30p.m. AA Meeting (FH)</div>	<div>8</div> <div></div>	<div>9</div> <div>9:00a.m. PEO Group (CR) 9:30a.m. Martha Circle (FC) 1:00p.m. Bible Study (FC) 3:30p.m. Jubilee Rehearsal (S) 6:00p.m. Faith-to-Face Group (zoom)</div>	<div>10</div> <div>9:00a.m. Set Free Rehearsal (S) 9:30a.m. Esther Circle (FC) 11:30a.m. Wonder Seekers (CR) 5:30p.m. Bells Rehearsal (S) 6:45p.m. Catechism—Lecture (CR) 6:45p.m. Firelight (BAC) 7:00p.m. Choir Rehearsal (S)</div>	<div>11</div> <div>7:00a.m. Men's Study Group (FC) 10:00a.m. Staff Meeting (FC) 7:00p.m. Oversight Team (FC)</div>	<div>12</div> <div></div>	<div>13</div> <div>    Synod Middle School Gathering @ Sheridan →</div>
<div>14</div> <div><i><b>Don &amp; Millie's Day</b></i> 8:30a.m. Coffee/Fellowship (A) <b>9:00a.m. Worship (S)—live-stream</b> 10:15a.m. Sunday School/Education Hour (BAC/CR) 11:30a.m. FEAST Lunch (FH) 6:00p.m. Winter's Eve Gathering of Holy Hygge (FC) 7:30p.m. AA Meeting (FH)</div>	<div>15</div> <div><i><b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</b></i> 11:00a.m. Wally Albers Funeral (S) 7:00p.m. Ray of Hope (FC)</div>	<div>16</div> <div>1:00p.m. Bible Study (FC) 3:30p.m. Jubilee Rehearsal (S) 7:00p.m. Mary/Martha Group (FC)</div>	<div>17</div> <div>9:00a.m. Chat &amp; Tie (FH) 9:00a.m. Set Free Rehearsal (S) 5:30p.m. Bells Rehearsal (S) 6:45p.m. Catechism—Homework 6:45p.m. Firelight (BAC) 7:00p.m. Choir Rehearsal (S)</div>	<div>18</div> <div>7:00a.m. Men's Study Group (FC)</div>	<div>19</div> <div></div>	<div>20</div> <div><i><b>Tiding's Deadline</b></i></div>
<div>21</div> <div>8:30a.m. Coffee/Fellowship (A) <b>9:00a.m. Worship (S)—live-stream</b> 10:15a.m. Sunday School/Education Hour (BAC/CR) 11:30a.m. FEAST Lunch (FH) 7:30p.m. AA Meeting (FH)</div>	<div>22</div> <div></div>	<div>23</div> <div>1:00p.m. Bible Study (FC) 3:30p.m. Jubilee Rehearsal (S)</div>	<div>24</div> <div>9:00a.m. Chat &amp; Tie (FH) 9:00a.m. Set Free Rehearsal (S) 11:30a.m. Wonder Seekers (CR) 5:30p.m. Bells Rehearsal (S) 6:45p.m. Catechism—Small Groups (CR) 6:45p.m. Firelight (BAC) 7:00p.m. Choir Rehearsal (S)</div>	<div>25</div> <div>7:00a.m. Men's Study Group (FC) 10:00a.m. Staff Meeting (FC) 7:00p.m. Women of Grace (FC)</div>	<div>26</div> <div>7:00p.m. Serendipity Group (HS Room)</div>	<div>27</div> <div></div>
<div>28</div> <div>8:30a.m. Coffee/Fellowship (A) <b>9:00a.m. Worship (S)—live-stream</b> 10:15a.m. Sunday School/Education Hour (BAC/CR) 11:30a.m. FEAST Lunch (FH) 7:30p.m. AA Meeting (FH)</div>	<div>29</div> <div></div>	<div>30</div> <div>1:00p.m. Bible Study (FC) 3:30p.m. Jubilee Rehearsal (S)</div>	<div>31</div> <div>9:00a.m. Set Free Rehearsal (S) 5:30p.m. Bells Rehearsal (S) 6:45p.m. Catechism—Lecture (CR) 6:45p.m. Firelight (BAC) 7:00p.m. Choir Rehearsal (S)</div>	<div>Feb. 1</div> <div>7:00a.m. Men's Study (FC)</div>	<div>Feb. 2</div> <div></div>	<div>Feb. 3</div> <div>10:00a.m. Layettes of Love (FH)</div>