



January 29, 2012

## RIC Sunday\Welcoming Sunday

Christian faith communities who welcome people of all sexual orientations and gender identities celebrate the last Sunday of January each year as Welcoming Sunday. This year OSLC will join in observing this day by remembering our own recent collective decision to become a Reconciling in Christ congregation. Begun in 1983, Reconciling in Christ (RIC) is a program for Lutheran communities of faith to answer the inclusive call of the Gospel by welcoming people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Currently,

there are over 450 Lutheran communities on the RIC roster, including congregations, campus ministries, synods of the ELCA and Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, camps, colleges, and other independent organizations.

We know we are just beginning to find ways to widen our community, to connect with and serve others, and to share the expansive grace of Jesus Christ. We acknowledge there is more to do beyond voting to become RIC. We look to grow into the ministry

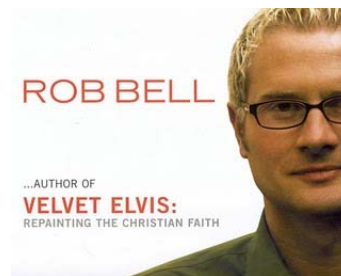
of reconciliation, just as we believe we are called and empowered by the Holy Spirit to live our lives in service to others. Through acts of love and justice, worship and witness, we seek to share God's boundless love with the world. As a community, we have declared all are welcome! All are welcome in this place! —RIC Team: Bud Egdahl, Nancy Hieta, Susan MacCharles, Emily Olsen, Jeanne Robertson, Julie Strong, Bruce Veenstra, Julie Veenstra, Laurel Waters, Milo Yoshino

### Repainting the Christian Faith

## Velvet Elvis Sermon Series

This month, we begin our sermon series and study around each of the chapters in the book by Rob Bell titled "Velvet Elvis". Rob writes, "As a Christian, I am simply trying to orient myself around living a particular

kind of way, the kind of way that Jesus taught is possible. And I think that the way of Jesus is the best possible way to live." Join us each Sunday as we explore this book in worship and in our Adult Education hour.



Here is the series information so you can keep up with the readings:

### Inside this issue:

Intentional Community	2
Baptism Celebration	3
Eat, Pray, Love	4
January Concert: Iberia	6
YEAH! Head to Toe	6
Women's Retreat	7
Children's Ministries	8
PLTS	9
Worship Perspectives	10
Prayer Requests	13
Finance Report	13
Calendar	15

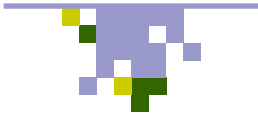
### Highlights this month:

- Epiphany Sermon Series
- Celebrate Baptism 1/8
- Brunch & Speaker Forum 1/8
- Women's Evening 1/21
- Piano Concert: Iberia 1/22
- RIC/Welcoming Sunday 1/29
- Intentional Community 1/29

(Continued on page 3)



Find Us On Facebook



## Intentional Community: An Experience of Faith for Our Times



In a recent article in the New York Times entitled “Americans: Undecided about God?” Eric Weiner notes, “For some of us, the [holiday] season affords an opportunity to reconnect with our religious heritage. For others, myself included, it’s a time to shake our heads over the sad state of our national conversation about God, and wish there were another way.”

He ends his article

with these words, “We need a Steve Jobs of religion. Someone (or ones) who can invent not a new religion but, rather, a new way of being religious. This new way would be straightforward and unencumbered and absolutely intuitive. Most important, it would be highly interactive. I imagine a religious space that celebrates doubt, encourages experimentation and allows one to utter the word God

without embarrassment.”

Intentional Community is an effort at just this kind of religion. If you would like to give it a try, we will be meeting for six sessions in 2012 from 4:00 – 5:30 PM on the following Sundays: Jan 29, Feb 12 & 26, Mar 11 & 25, and Apr 15. Join us for the first session at 4:00 PM on Sunday, January 22 to see if this is the way religion works for you. Child-care is always provided.

## OSLC Concert Series Coming Attractions



Mark your calendars for the wonderful performances coming up on our Concert Series:

**Sunday, January 22**  
**4:00 PM**

Dale Tsang-Hall, piano  
(see page 6 article)

**Sunday, February 19**  
**4:00 PM**

Dominique Piana, harp

**Sunday, March 18**  
**7:00 pm**

OSLC Choirs and Guest Artists: Ev’ry Time I Feel the Spirit, featuring Robert Ray’s GOSPEL MASS

**Sunday, May 6**  
**4:00 PM**

Annual Celebration of Music Concert



*Intermission at the 2011 Christmas Concert, Sunday, December 11, 2011*

## Christmas Concert Offering

THANK YOU to those who contributed to the Christmas Concert offering. As a result of your generosity, we were able to send over \$1,000 to the Bay Area Crisis Nursery!

Sunday, January 8, 2012

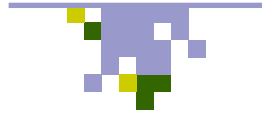
## Baptism: Gateway to New Life

**W**ife: “My water just broke!” Husband: “All of it?” [from the movie, *New Year’s Eve*]. When the water breaks, new life begins. In baptism, the water breaks over our heads, and we find ourselves emerging into a new reality of spiritual life.

Sunday, January 8, 2012 is designated on the liturgical calendar as the day to commemorate *The Baptism of Our Lord*. At OSLC we take this oppor-

tunity to recognize and honor those who have been baptized here in the past year and to remember and celebrate our own baptisms.

We will have this celebration of baptism at both services on Sunday, January 8, 2012.



Wednesday, January 18 at 7:00 pm

## Beer, Brassieres and God

**T**his is a gathering for mothers who need a safe and relaxed space to talk about the joys and struggles of juggling “it all.”

Each month we gather at Pyramid Ale



House in Walnut Creek and discuss the spirituality of motherhood. Mothers of all ages are invited.

In January, we will meet at Pyramid on Wednesday, January 18 at 7:00 PM. —*Pastor Holly*

*Wife:*  
“My water just broke!”  
*Husband:*  
“All of it?”

### Sermon Series

(Continued from page 1)

**January 8**

**Jump on Faith**

Do I experience the energy that surges within my faith tradition?

**January 15**

**Yoke into Life**

Does my life find shape within the world of the Bible?

**January 22**

**What’s True for You**

Does my sense of reality find footing in the life of Jesus?

**January 29**

**Tassels on every Corner**

Can I say with confidence that my life is whole?

**February 5**

**Breathing Dust**

Do I breathe the wisdom of Jesus teachings?

**February 12**

**New Identity**

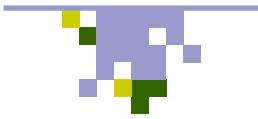
Can I point to places of transformation in my life?

**February 19**

**Good Land**

Does my place in the life of faith do any good?

If you have yet to buy the book or download it to your eReader, they are available after each service for \$15.00.




Saturday, January 21, 2012 7:00 PM

## Eat, Pray, Love – Food, Health, & Spirituality

Save the date! Please join the women at OSLC for an evening of speaker presentations and informal discussion on the theme “Eat, Pray,

**dessert** Love - Food, Health, & Spirituality. This is not a book discussion!



**fellowship**

Start the New Year off by getting to know the community of women at OSLC.

Feel free to bring fruit or a light dessert to share with others. You are encouraged to bring a friend and copies of your dessert recipe.

**Date:**  
Saturday, January 21, 2012

**Time:**  
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

**Location:**  
OSLC Fellowship Hall

If you need childcare arrangements or transportation to and from this event, or if you would like to help with a small job to make this event enjoyable for all, please contact Pastor Holly, holly@oslc.net.

*“He has shown you,  
O man, what is good.  
And what does the  
Lord require of you?  
But to act justly,  
and to love mercy,  
and to walk humbly  
with your God.”  
– Micah 6:8*

## Finding Faith – Finding Meaning

The Adult Faith Formation Team has put a new brochure together that provides you with a snapshot of all the opportunities for exploring your faith in the New Year.



Grab a brochure and plot your course toward meaning! Copies are available in the Lounge.

Sunday, January 8, 2011, at 11:45 AM

## Brunch and Speaker Forum



**Speakers & Brunch**

Four or five times a year we bring our Congregation Council together to explore the important issues that keep our congregation thriving. On Sunday, January 8, 2011, we invite you to join them as we hear presentations on the emerging place of commu-

nity organizing within the lives of congregations and communities, and the evolving character of the progressive church movement that continues to breathe life into the way of faith for our time. We will have a light brunch following the second service while we hear from

our speakers.

Following the brunch the Congregation Council will remain to spend some time reflecting on these issues and the role they might play in our own future. Childcare will be extended to 12:45 PM that day if you would like to join us.





Sunday, January 22, 2012 at 4:00 PM

## What is Iberia?

Iberia is the southwestern European peninsula that is divided into Portugal and Spain. Iberia is also the name of a tour-de-force composition for piano, one that we will hear on our concert series **Sunday, January 22 at 4:00 PM.**

A set of twelve musical portraits (in four books, each with three portraits), Iberia was composed by Isaac Albéniz in



Pianist Dale Tsang-Hall

1905-1909, completed shortly before his death.

These brilliantly vivid pictures of Iberian life and culture are based on Spanish places, folk tunes, and dances such as flamenco and fandango.

Our guest artist is Dale Tsang-Hall, one of the Bay Area's outstanding keyboard talents; you will be amazed at the speed, strength and beauty of her playing.

*"We need a Steve Jobs of religion. Someone (or ones) who can invent not a new religion but, rather, a new way of being religious."*  
—Eric Weiner



## The Concordia Choir is Coming

The Concordia Choir (of Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota), under the direction of

the amazing René Clausen, is one of America's finest a cappella choirs. They appear in a limited number of engagements throughout the year. On Friday, March 9 at 8:00 pm they will be presenting a con-

cert at St. Ignatius Church, 650 Parker Avenue in San Francisco. Mark your calendar and buy tickets at [www.concordiatickets.com](http://www.concordiatickets.com). More details in the February issue of The Spirit.

January 8 to January 23

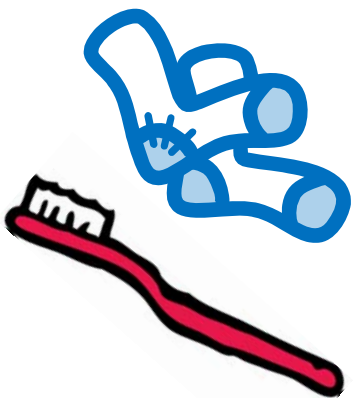
## YEAH! from Head to Toe

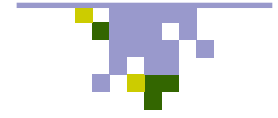
In January the OSLC Mission Team is collecting items for YEAH! (Youth Engagement Advocacy Housing), the shelter for homeless young people located in Berkeley. YEAH! offers clinical case management and counseling, skill building and peer groups, and a supportive community of caring

adults. The shelter is open every night between November and May. The youth are served a hot dinner and in the morning receive breakfast and a bag lunch. Clean socks and underwear are provided when available. They have access to a shower nightly.

From January 8 to 23, we will collect new

socks in men's and women's sizes and new dental hygiene products such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, and dental floss. YEAH! has a particular need for these items at this time. Look for collection boxes in the Fellowship Hall, the Lounge, and in the main entrance to the Sanctuary). Thank you for your help to this important ministry. — Carolyn McGovern (925) 939-3202





## Women’s Retreat: “Being, Having & Doing Enough”

**W**omen of Our Savior’s, when was the last time you took a Sabbath? When was the last time you took a day to play, meditate, spend time with family and celebrate life? I know it sounds slightly selfish to let ourselves just be, especially when there is laundry piling up, bills to pay, groceries to unload, emails to answer, proposals to read and the list goes on and on. Author Wayne Muller

writes, “We have built our lives on a ridiculous belief that if we move faster, work longer and harder (with the help of all our astonishingly swift and convenient technologies), fix everything broken, or complete every project, then we can finally say, ‘That is enough. Now I can rest.’”

We all need rest. We all need time to be silent before God. If you are craving a Sabbath,

please consider attending the 2012 Women’s Retreat March 2-4, at the Bishop’s Ranch in Healdsburg. Even if you don’t need a rest, come just so you can experience the beautiful setting, scrumptious food and wonderful hospitality of the Bishop’s Ranch. Cost is \$200.

Registration begins February 1, 2012. For registration info please contact Pastor Holly or Kathy Lickiss. —Pastor Holly



**Become a Guitar Hero!**

### Guitar Lessons

**V**ince Mellone, our own guitarist from the 10:45 am service, will be giving private lessons at Our Savior’s on Thursdays after school. Vince has been teaching acoustic and electric guitar to stu-

dents of all ages for twelve years. But space is limited! Call, text, or email Vince about rates and open times at (510) 757-7010 or Vincemellone@yahoo.com.

*“When was the last time you took a day to play, meditate, spend time with family and celebrate life?”*

Mission Outreach Team

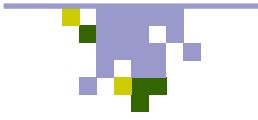
## December Mission Distributions

**T**he Mission Outreach Team disperses funds each quarter to local and international nonprofits. At the December meeting it was prayerfully decided to donate gifts of \$500 to the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County, ELCA Domestic Relief, Loaves and

Fishes, Lutheran Social Services of Northern California, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, YEAH!, Asante Network, ELCA World Hunger, and Raising Hope in the Heart of Africa. We also disbursed \$1,000 to Maya Crew.



The Mission Outreach Team thanks you for your generous giving. Your continued support shows that OSLC is a community committed to acting in the world with justice and love.



January 2012

## Kids God's World Schedule

In God's World this month we follow Jesus and his teachings.



**January 1**  
No God's World  
New Year's Day

**January 8**  
Jesus at the Temple and  
Grades 1&2 milestone

**January 15**  
No God's World  
MLK Holiday

**January 22**  
Jesus calls the fishermen to follow him and Grades 1&2 milestone

**January 29**  
Jesus calls Matthew and Grades 1&2 milestone



## Prayer and First Communion Milestones

Class instruction for Grades 1&2 begins on January 8 during God's World. The Grade 1 Prayer Milestone explores prayer as a primary way of connecting with God.

The Grade 2 First Communion Milestone focuses on experiencing the sacrament of Holy Communion as a beautiful expression of God's love coming to us in the ordinary elements of

bread and wine.

For more information, please contact Ricci Jamgotchian, [kids@oslc.net](mailto:kids@oslc.net).

Sunday, January 29, 2012 at 4:00 PM

## High School Youth Hang Out

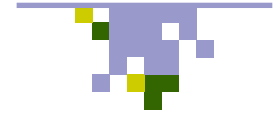


### High School Hang Out

High Schoolers, we are meeting on Sunday, January 29, 2012 at 4:00 PM at the Healys' house for another fun evening of hanging out with friends, games and fantastic conversation.

These gatherings are a chance to be yourself, to not be afraid to be

silly, and share your thoughts about life and God. To get directions to the Healys' house, contact Pastor Holly, [holly@oslc.net](mailto:holly@oslc.net).



## Our Partnership with PLTS

Seminary news via a recent press release: “Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (PLTS) and California Lutheran University (CLU) located in Thousand Oaks announced that they are exploring and assessing a proposed merger that would enhance the educational offerings of each institution. The process of exploration was formally endorsed by the governing boards of the university

and the seminary at their fall meetings.

“CLU and PLTS are both schools of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) with complementary missions: to prepare leaders for the church and the global society. The boards of each school seek to discover how the two schools can carry out their missions better together. The faculty of PLTS and

the religion faculty of CLU affirm that a merger would be advantageous for supporting the other’s programs, delivering shared programs for the church, and developing new approaches to teaching. Beyond the programmatic and educational advantages, operating on a greater scale would make the mission of the seminary even more sustainable over time.

*(Continued on page 10)*

Recycle, Reuse and Renew

## Save Your Christmas Cards

Wondering what to do with your Christmas cards? Consider recycling them to Children’s Ministry. We’ll reuse them at the 2012 Advent Festival and renew them into a cherished

family ornament.

Please drop off your Christmas cards with holiday scenes in a labeled basket located in the Lounge.



*Used Christmas Cards Needed*

*“Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (PLTS) and California Lutheran University (CLU) located in Thousand Oaks announced that they are exploring and assessing a proposed merger...”*

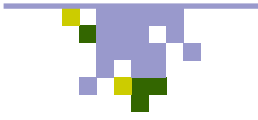
## Advent Festival Thanks



A BIG thank you to all our volunteers and craft makers who helped create a fun filled Advent Festival on Sunday, November 27, 2011.

Pia Beetham  
Kristy Bouchard

Becky Bouchard  
Sue Enger  
Shaina Ferry  
Karen Healy  
Eva Healy  
Lauren Irwin  
Roberta Klaproth  
Lynn Waespi



## With an Open Heart and Mind

Worship is part of who I am. My Mom started taking us to church when I was three years old and I haven't looked back since. That doesn't mean my relationship to worship and a church family has stayed the same.

In the beginning I went along and looked up the hymns and absorbed what was being read and talked about. In third grade a new pastor and his family came and changed my life! His wife was the organist and choir director and I joined the junior choir. That first year my Dad asked me if I could sing "Far Away;" he wasn't referring to the title of a song.

I hung in there and for the first time began to feel part of a church family and of wor-

ship. I continued to build on that foundation throughout high school and college, attending worship, singing in the choir, teaching Sunday School and serving on the church council - all at the same church where I started.

Each Sunday we would use the liturgy settings from the hymnals from beginning to end. I found the continuity comforting and predictable. Looking back, I was in a holding pattern. My faith didn't really mature very much after high school, but my experience of a loving church community blossomed.

The pastor and his wife had children close to my age and I always felt welcomed in their home and part of their family. Perhaps I had fallen into a

comfortable, reassuring worship life.

After our first visit to OSLC in 1983, Pastor Egdahl and Mary came to our home to talk to us. I hope he doesn't remember me grilling him about such things as whether or not they had communion each week and whether they stood up for the hymn of the day. I cringe to think of what a nuts-and-bolts relationship I had with worship at that time! Bud and Mary were so gracious and loving in their answers! Needless to say we joined OSLC and became involved in the community.

I have been a part of worship at Our Savior's all along - as a member of the Chancel Choir, bell choir, a lector, a cantor and a liturgist. I joined the

*(Continued on page 11)*

*"Pastor Egdahl and Mary came to our home to talk to us. I hope he doesn't remember me grilling him about such things as whether or not they had communion each week and whether they stood up for the hymn of the day."*

## PLTS

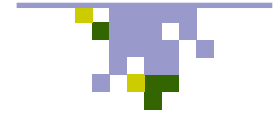
*(Continued from page 9)*

"The boards anticipate collaborating in ways that honor the fundamental integrity, identity and mission of each school. This includes PLTS' remaining a full seminary of the ELCA, located in Berkeley with continued

full participation in the Graduate Theological Union (GTU).

"As these schools of the church enter into the due diligence phase of our exploration, they seek your prayers for wisdom, creativity and insight such that both schools can reach an informed deci-

sion regarding the proposed merger. It's an exciting time for PLTS. Thank you for your continual prayers and support."



## Worship Perspective

(Continued from page 10)

church staff when Pastor Dave left and Pastor Dan was the only fulltime clergy. One of my duties was producing the Sunday worship bulletin. Out of necessity, that included



writing liturgy, structuring the flow of the services, and selecting hymns.

You might think that that focused my attention even more on the details of worship, but it actually caused me to put myself in the place of the worshippers and how they experienced the service. I felt so blessed when Martin joined the staff and was dedicated to that end as well.

Over the ten years I was office manager, my faith bloomed. I'll be the first to admit that I was dragged kicking and screaming at first! I used to say I wasn't a big fan of change, but now I welcome it in many areas of my life. And I'll tell you

why. I figured out that if I'm not changing, I'm staying the same. That is not healthy for any relationship, especially one with God and with my fellow Christians.

How can I live out my faith 24/7 if I'm hanging on so tightly to the status quo, the old ways, the old liturgies? How can I use my gifts to their fullest if I won't unwrap them and share them with my

world?

One of the best things I've ever done for my worship life is to agree to serve communion and to serve as a lay assistant. When I look into your eyes and I give you the bread or the wine, or if I join you in a litany or the prayers, I feel such a strong sense of love for you and the tangible presence of the Holy Spirit.

Sometimes when you're assigned a role in worship, you can feel "outside" of the experience, however I find that participating allows me to feel even more connected with what is happening. For me, serving communion and assisting with worship is an awesome

privilege. I hope you will try it!

A number of years ago I stopped looking for ways that the Sunday service differed from the old order of worship in the blue Missouri Synod hymnal or in the green LBW, or checking whether or not confession or the Kyrie were there. The woman who interrogated Pastor Egdahl so many years ago

Today, I embrace the wonderful way in which our changing liturgy relates so closely to our lives, even though sometimes it takes a few weeks for me to fully realize the connection. The changes keep the parts of the service fresh and active in my mind. I no longer find myself thinking about what to make for dinner during church!

I think the biggest worship revolution for me has been an internal one. When I go in to worship, I don't focus on what won't be there. How can God bless me if I'm preoccupied with keeping score. I enter the Sanctuary with an open heart and mind and the prayer "Lord, please bless me in a special way today. Give me something I can take out into your world and share." Now that's worship! —Kathy Lickiss

*Your WMA Ministry Team is presenting a series of articles during OSLC's Year of Community. What happens in your head and heart during a worship service? What can you share with others about how you connect during this community experience? Each month, we'll hear from a different perspective. This article comes from Kathy Lickiss.*



Apr. 16, 1922 - Nov. 28, 2011

## Earl Theodore Esse

A former member of Our Savior’s, Earl Theodore Esse passed away peacefully in Denver, Colorado on November 28, 2011, surrounded by loving family and in the compassionate care of hospice nurses. Active in his church and community, Earl was a volunteer with such organizations as the Blackhawk Museum and enjoyed attending reunions of the 90th Bomb Group Jolly Rogers.

An avid golfer, Earl and Renee retired to a home with a golf course view in Danville, CA. Earl also co-authored a book detailing the history of the Esse family from Norway to America.

Earl is survived by wife Renee Dupuis Esse, children Earl Esse Jr. (Judith), Jacqueline Ludgin, Donald Esse (Patricia), by grandchildren Melina Esse (Holly Watkins), Katherine Esse (Brian

Meyer), Juliana Wallace (Kyle), Scott Ludgin, Doug Ludgin (Elise), Jason Esse, and Jared Esse, by great grandchildren Gemma Wallace and Fiona Wallace.

Memorial donations may be made to Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette, CA 94549 or University of California Berkeley, CA Memorial Alumni Fund, Alumni House, Berkeley, CA 94720.



## LWR Quilters Resume Work in January

After a little holiday break, the LWR Quilting Group will resume meeting in the Lounge on Thursday afternoons from noon to 3:00 PM beginning January 5. No experience necessary! Questions? Call

Kathy Lickiss at (925) 933-8123 or email [kblickiss@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kblickiss@sbcglobal.net).

Can’t come to church for Quilt Group but would love to help? We welcome:

- All donations of fabric, thread, embroi-

dery floss and flat sheets suitable for use as backings.

- Volunteers to sew together quilt tops from a packet of pre-selected blocks in your own home.

## 2012 – A Brand New Year

I am the new year. I am an unspoiled page in your book of time.

I am your next chance at the art of living. I am your opportunity to practice what you have learned about life during the last 12 months.

All you sought and didn’t find is hidden

in me, waiting for you to search it but with more determination. All the good you tried for and didn’t achieve is mine to grant when you have fewer conflicting desires.

All you dreamed but didn’t dare to do, all you hoped but did not will, all the faith you

claimed but did not have – these slumber lightly, waiting to be awakened by the touch of a strong purpose.

I am your opportunity to renew your allegiance to him who said, “See, I am making all things new” (Revelation 21:5, NRSV)

OUR SAVIOR'S  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
1035 CAROL LANE  
LAFAYETTE, CA 94549

TEL. (925)-283-3722  
FAX (925) 283-4783

E-MAIL: SPIRIT@OSLC.NET  
WEBSITE: WWW.OSLC.NET

SUNDAY WORSHIP  
8:30 AM & 10:45 AM  
NURSERY CARE AVAILABLE

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS  
MON - THURS: 9 AM - 4 PM  
FRIDAY: 9 AM - 12:00 PM

**Church Staff**

**Pastors:** Daniel E. Senter  
Holly McHale-Larsen  
**Music:** Martin Morley  
**Children:** Ricci Jamgotchian  
**Facility:** Vianey Rios  
**Finances:** Bill Klapproth  
**Off. Mgr:** Skip Ordway  
**Admin.:** Sally Bluhm

**Spirit Volunteers**

**Labels:** Barbara Millar  
Scott Walker  
**Assembly:** Lola Blomquist  
Dick Enger  
Edna Fenske  
Carl Johnson  
Lillian Johnson

The *Spirit* is published monthly. Article submissions are due on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month. All articles are subject to space limits and editorial changes.

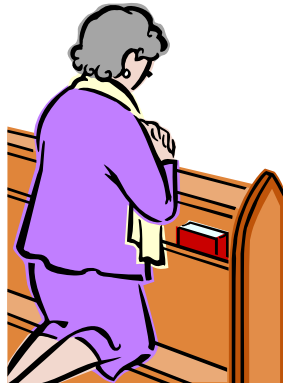
This publication is printed on paper containing 30% post-consumer fiber. Please recycle after use.



**OSLC Mission Partners**

We are extended into the world through our relationships with mission partners, including: Senior Helpline Services, Lafayette, CA; Rancho Santa Marta, Mexico; Guatemala Outreach, Chichicastenango, Guatemala; and New Life Band, Tanzania.

## Community Prayer Requests



### Prayers of Thanksgiving

For the safe return of all troops deployed to Iraq.

### Prayers for Healing

**Bishop Mark Holmerud & family**, as he prepares for surgery for prostate cancer. In early February

### Prayers for the Bereaved

**Margie Bardin**, grieving the death of her daughter, **Janet Hulley**, on November 18, 2011.

**Renee Esse & family**, grieving the death

of her husband, **Earl Esse**, on November 28, 2011.

**Jeanne Robertson & Laurel Waters**, grieving the death of Jeanne's aunt, **Irma Timmerman**.

### Prayers for Protection & Safety

All family and friends serving in the military, especially **Daniel Foust, Mark Macias, J.B. Moulton and Shane Denbow**.

## Avenues of Prayer

There are two types of prayer requests at OSLC. To submit requests for the community prayer list that appears in the Sunday bulletin and in this newsletter, contact Sally Bluhm at the church office, (925) 283-3722, ext. 224, or send an email to [sally@oslc.net](mailto:sally@oslc.net). You may also fill out the back of your Sunday attendance card

and hand it to an usher. Due to the personal nature of prayer situations, the person(s) being prayed for must give permission to have their name(s) added to the community prayer list. Prayers are published for four weeks.

Confidential prayer requests that you do not wish to have published may be for-

warded to the Confidential Prayer Network. A prayer team will lift up your concerns. Please feel free to access the network with your confidential concerns by calling Lee Bellas at (925) 945-6310, or by sending an email to [Ellie Anderson, eleonor7@comcast.net](mailto:eleonor7@comcast.net), with your concern.

## OSLC Financial Report

Our deficit continued to grow in November: an additional \$10,593 was added to our negative cash position, making our cumulative deficit for fiscal year -\$37,890.

Offerings for the first five months of the fiscal year are about \$21,000 below expectations. If you have questions or comments, please call. —*Bill Klapproth, Finance Manager*

November 2011

Offerings received	32,256
Less Benevolence	-\$3,226
Net member giving	\$29,030
Other income	\$12,896
<b>TOTAL operating income</b>	<b>\$41,927</b>
Expenses	-\$52,520
Deficit this month	-\$10,593
<b>Cumulative deficit (Fiscal Year)</b>	<b>-\$37,890</b>



## On Valuing the Arts: Lessons from the Seacoast Worship Arts Academy

Churches offering classes are nothing new. You've likely been part of a church that offers topical classes or bible studies. But at Seacoast Church in South Carolina, they're up to something different. Seacoast believes the arts are an absolutely vital way to reach their community. That manifests itself in a few ways.

Promoting the arts gives people entry-points to your church beyond Sunday morning. For now, the Seacoast Worship Arts Academy is aimed primarily at Seacoast attendees, but this won't be the case forever, or even for long. They're hoping that folks who would never show up on Sunday morning might be interested in guitar lessons or oil painting.

Before crying, "Bait and switch!" consider this: if you have attendees at your church who you believe are kind, generous and loving, wouldn't you want to connect your community with them in whatever way possible? Sunday morning can be off-

putting to the unchurched and de-churched, but they can still experience the heart of your church through peripheral offerings focused on the arts.

Promoting the arts among attendees helps create disciples that can make a huge impact. Encouraging artists in your church helps the gospel become part of the conversation in areas where it has become more-or-less mute.



And there's more than one level of impact here. Artists don't simply have creator-to-creator relationships. They also have creator-to-consumer relationships that can result in the observers of created work experiencing the gospel in new ways. Imagine the impact if your local art galleries regularly featured work from mem-

bers of your church community.

Promoting the arts gives your community new ways to connect with God. A few years ago, I spent a summer at Mosaic Church in Los Angeles. I'll never forget some of the paintings I saw as responses to sermons or songs, the turntable-based worship sets or the crowds at church-organized poetry readings. And many first-time visitors had never known that God could be experienced through the media they already knew and loved.

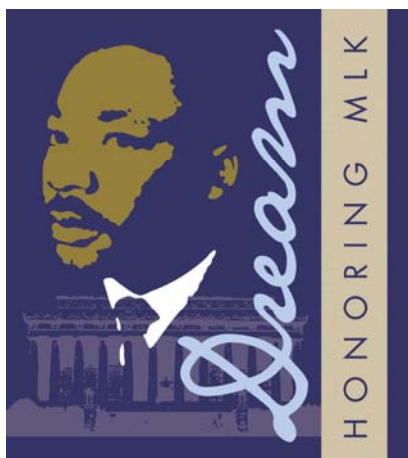
For many of us, the default reaction is, "Well, we don't have people like that at our church." But the reality is most churches do. They just need to give them freedom and permission to worship in these ways. This is an investment to make over time. That's what Seacoast is doing. They're saying, "We're going to invest our time, energy and resources into supporting your passions and helping our church provide diverse ways for people to connect with God." —Written by

Joshua Cody and published on [www.churchmarketingsucks.com](http://www.churchmarketingsucks.com)

*"Encouraging artists in your church helps the gospel become part of the conversation in areas where it has become more-or-less mute."*

# January

- 1 **NEW YEAR'S DAY**  
Blended Worship - 9:30 am  
NO God's World/Conf
- 2 **STAFF HOLIDAY**  
Church Office Closed
- 3 **NO Bellissimo**  
Mission Ministry Team - 7:00 pm  
Adult Faith Formation Team - 7:00 pm
- 4 **Worship, Music & Arts Team - 7:00 pm**
- 5 **Joy Bible Study - 9:00 am**  
LWR Quilters - 11:30 am  
Chancel Choir - 7:00 pm  
Voices of Praise - 7:00 pm
- 6 **Fellowship Bridge - 7:00 pm**
- 7 **Undecking the Halls - 5:00 pm**
- 8 **BAPTISM OF OUR LORD**  
Worship - Classic - 8:30 am  
God's World/Conf - 9:45 am  
Worship - Contemporary - 10:45 am  
Speakers Brunch - 11:45 am  
Congregation Council - 12:45 pm
- 9 **SPIRIT DEADLINE - 4:00 pm**
- 10 **Bellissimo - 6:00 pm**  
Executive Meeting - 7:00 pm
- 12 **Joy Bible Study - 9:00 am**  
LWR Quilters - 11:30 am  
Chancel Choir - 7:00 pm  
Voices of Praise - 7:00 pm
- 15 **Worship - Classic - 8:30 am**  
NO God's World/Conf  
Worship - Contemporary - 10:45 am
- 16 **MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY**  
Church Office Closed



- 17 **Bellissimo - 6:00 pm**
- 19 **Joy Bible Study - 9:00 am**  
LWR Quilters - 11:30 am  
Chancel Choir - 7:00 pm  
Voices of Praise - 7:00 pm
- 21 **Chancel Choir Rehearsal - 9:30 am**  
Eat, Pray, Love - 5:00 pm
- 22 **Worship - Classic - 8:30 am**  
God's World/Conf - 9:45 am  
Worship - Contemporary - 10:45 am  
CONCERT SERIES: Tsang-Hall - 4:00 pm
- 24 **Bellissimo - 6:00 pm**
- 26 **Joy Bible Study - 9:00 am**  
LWR Quilters - 11:30 am  
Chancel Choir - 7:00 pm  
Voices of Praise - 7:00 pm
- 29 **RIC SUNDAY**  
Worship - Classic - 8:30 am  
God's World/Conf - 9:45 am  
Worship - Contemporary - 10:45 am  
Intentional Community - 4:00 pm
- 31 **Bellissimo - 6:00 pm**

# February

- 1 **Worship, Music & Arts Team - 7:00 pm**
- 2 **Joy Bible Study - 9:00 am**  
LWR Quilters - 11:30 am  
Chancel Choir - 7:00 pm  
Voices of Praise - 7:00 pm
- 3 **Fellowship Bridge - 7:00 pm**
- 5 **SCOUT SUNDAY**  
Worship - Classic - 8:30 am  
God's World/Conf - 9:45 am  
Worship - Contemporary - 10:45 am
- 7 **Bellissimo - 7:00 PM**  
Mission Ministry Team - 7:00 pm  
Adult Faith Formation Team - 7:00 pm
- 9 **Joy Bible Study - 9:00 am**  
LWR Quilters - 11:30 am  
Chancel Choir - 7:00 pm  
Voices of Praise - 7:00 pm
- 11 **Chancel Choir Rehearsal - 9:30 am**
- 12 **Worship Milestone**  
Worship - Classic - 8:30 am  
God's World/Conf - 9:45 am  
Worship - Contemporary - 10:45 am  
Intentional Community - 4:00 pm
- 13 **SPIRIT DEADLINE**



*Katie W and Hannah E, "The Waffle and Chicken Gang"*

- 14 **VALENTINE'S DAY**  
Bellissimo - 7:00 pm
- 16 **Joy Bible Study - 9:00 am**  
LWR Quilters - 11:30 am  
Chancel Choir - 7:00 pm  
Voices of Praise - 7:00 pm
- 19 **Worship - Classic - 8:30 am**  
NO God's World/Conf  
Worship - Contemporary - 10:45 am
- 20 **PRESIDENTS' DAY**  
Church Office Closed
- 21 **Bellissimo - 7:00 PM**
- 22 **ASH WEDNESDAY**  
Prayer Milestone  
Ash Wednesday Worship - 7:00 pm
- 23 **Joy Bible Study - 9:00 am**  
LWR Quilters - 11:30 am  
Chancel Choir - 7:00 pm  
Voices of Praise - 7:00 pm
- 25 **WINE & TAPAS - 7:00 pm**
- 26 **Worship - Classic - 8:30 am**  
God's World/Conf - 9:45 am  
Worship - Contemporary - 10:45 am  
Intentional Community - 4:00 pm
- 28 **Bellissimo - 7:00 pm**  
Faith & Film Night - 7:00 pm
- 29 **Lenten Study Series - 7:00 pm**





OUR SAVIOR'S  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

1035 Carol Lane  
Lafayette, CA 94549

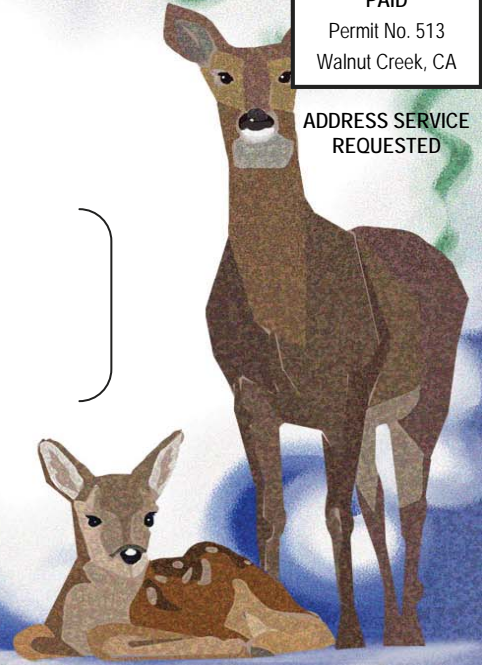
Phone: (925) 283-3722

Fax: (925) 283-4783

Email: [spirit@oslc.net](mailto:spirit@oslc.net)

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 513  
Walnut Creek, CA

ADDRESS SERVICE  
REQUESTED



***RIC/WELCOMING SUNDAY, January 29, 2012***

**Our Savior's Lutheran Church**

**A Reconciling In Christ Congregation**

**We are a community embraced by the mystery of God's love for all creation. We look for the Christ shining in every race, every child and family shape, every sexual orientation and gender identity, every physical and mental ability, every economic status, and every faith perspective. Within this dynamic community, we foster meaningful connections and experiences as we live into faith and face the issues of our time.**

**Together, we strive to live with loving hearts, open minds,  
and hands extended to all.**

***"... for all of you are one in Christ." Galatians 3:28***

