

OSL NEWSLETTER

STAY INFORMED. GET INVOLVED. PRAISE THE LORD!



2026 Tanzania team missionaries, with OSL member Laurie Gent pictured center in purple at their hotel in Shinyanga, Tanzania.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Read a letter from Pastor Pope on page 2, and a letter from OSL Music Director, Amanda Easterday on page 5-6.

INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

Laurie is back from her mission trip to Tanzania! Read about the great work done for God's kingdom on page 3.

1 DAY VBS WITH PICNIC!

Spread the word! Make a SPLASH with Jesus VBS is Saturday, June 27 from 9:30-11:45 am with family picnic to follow! Registration QR on page 4.



Christ Brings Life in Abundance

From the Pastor's Desk

Summer colors have arrived. Step outside the door and you are met with deep greens, the vivid blue sky, and bright sunlight. The browns of winter have fully given way to the greens of summer. In the church, summertime coincides with the season of Trinity, the longest season of the church year. Green paraments, banners, and stoles reflect the riot of green in which God has clothed the countryside. Green is a color of life, of vibrant vitality. The green colors in church remind us that Christ has come to bring life, and bring it abundantly.

During Trinity we focus on the Christian life. God Himself is the source of life, the Creator of all that is. The Trinitarian life into which the baptismal waters take us is one of ever-new life. Newness of life is given to us by the red stained cross, and covered in the precious blood of Christ we may enjoy the green, cool grass of paradise eternally. When we are brought into the loving relationship that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit share, we become new creatures. Receiving the love of God, we love in return. Our status as God's children does not depend on our love, but God's. It is He who enables us to love. Any love that is within us has its origin outside of ourselves. All love begins in God. His is the only true love, the only love worth having. All human love is a reflection or a shadow of this great, all-encompassing divine love.

As members of the Church we receive this love. We receive this love when we gather together to when we receive His absolution that takes away sin, when we hear the Gospel proclaimed through the preaching of the Word, and when we receive the true body and blood of Christ in His Sacrament of the Altar. These great gifts of love are offered every Sunday. Come to be refreshed, to be renewed and given the life that God has to give. In this way we participate in the Trinity's life of love.

-Pastor Pope



International Missions—Tanzania 2026



Bwana Asifiwe!!!

Swahili — “Praise the Lord!!!”

I just returned from Tanzania, East Africa, last week from a mission trip to the Shinyanga region, the north central area of the country. Our goal was to reach three villages in remote areas of the East of Lake Victoria Diocese (SELVD) of the ELCT (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania) to tell the dear story of Jesus Christ, baptize new Christians, and start new churches, reaching the Sukuma tribe. **We met our goal and surpassed it—1,236 new Christians were baptized as children of God, and three new churches were started!** What an amazing journey we had, allowing Christ to work through us. The Holy Spirit was definitely alive and present!

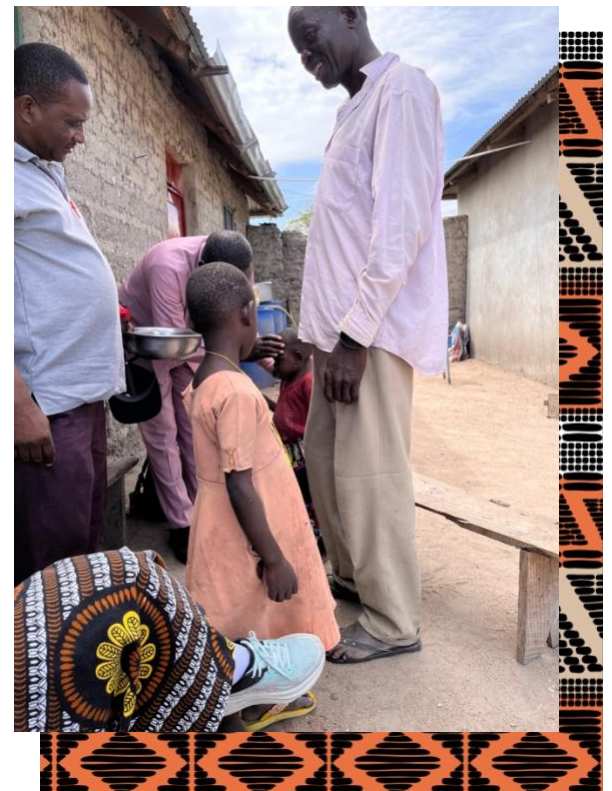


Our team was composed of 14 LCMS members from four states, ten of which were veterans and four first-timers. We all worked very well together, going out in teams of two each with diocese pastors who were our translators, evangelists, and villagers who knew the areas we needed to visit. What an awesome experience!!

The Mid-South District has had an ongoing relationship with the SELVD (originally the ELVD) since 2005 and since that time, Mid-South volunteer missionaries have baptized a total of over 27,000! What an absolute honor for myself and Our Savior Lutheran Church, Cabot, Arkansas, to be involved with such a mission-minded district! You all have played the part of being so very important and involved, and whether it was giving, fundraising, and/or praying, you were instrumental in reaching and saving thousands of the Sukuma tribe. I am honored to be a member of your church.

There are many stories to tell, but what I really want to do is to thank each and every one of you who donated money, made home-made cookies (thank you, Jeanette Talik!), put together the plant sale (Margaret Waters and many others who brought dozens of flowers and other plants), and the T.G.I.F. group who made dozens of sausage biscuits three Sundays to help fundraise. If I have missed anyone, thank you, too!!! You all are an amazing mission minded, forward-thinking, loving church to whom I am deeply indebted. May God bless you all.

-Laurie Gent



REGISTER FOR VBS!

KIDS MAKE A SPLASH WITH JESUS THIS SUMMER!

Our Savior Lutheran Church is hosting a 1-day VBS for kids Pre-K to 5th grade. We will be learning what a difference Jesus can make in our lives, when we are willing to dive in with Him! **Saturday, June 27 from 9:30-11:45 am with a family picnic to follow! Register Today!**

Make a SPLASH with Jesus

Kids, PK-5th grade, will learn what a difference Jesus can make in their lives, when they are willing to dive in with him.

Kids participating will need sunscreen, water clothes, a change of clothes, a towel, and sandals/water shoes

Saturday, 06.27.26

09:30am-11:45am

picnic to follow at noon

MEMORY VERSE:

"Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord"

ACTS 3:19 (NIV)

REGISTER TODAY



CHURCH FAMILY PICNIC

Following VBS at noon on Saturday, June 27 is a church family picnic! Meat will be furnished, please bring a side or dessert to share!



CEREAL DRIVE STATISTICS

We want to thank everyone who brought cereal and other foods for the Magness Creek Food Drive! Your donations will help feed hungry kids this Summer!

80 Boxes of Cereal

15 Bags of Cereal

7 Boxes of Pop Tarts

5 Boxes of Oatmeal

107 Total Donations for the Cereal Drive!



JUNE NOISY OFFERING

The noisy offering this month will go towards the Concordia food bank in St. Louis, MO.

The food bank provides the tremendous blessing of free groceries and household items to all Seminary students and their families. Seminary students may shop twice a month during the academic year and once a month during summer free of charge. The amount of food each student is eligible for is based on family size. The Food Bank allows students and their families the opportunity to stretch their resources by reducing their out-of-pocket grocery expenses.

Scripture in Song

A word from Music Director Amanda Easterday

It should come as no surprise that my family and I love music, which is good since I'm the music director. For me, music is the most frequently used way that I hear God speak to me. I'm sure some of you can relate to that. Songs that sing out Scripture are the most meaningful to me. Think about VBS and Sunday School. The majority of Scripture shared is taught in song form. Singing out Scripture is a fantastic way to make it stick with you.

The great thing about music, and worship music specifically, is that it comes in various genres — hymns, anthems, simple songs, large group, rap, country, even rock! God is so gracious to bless so many with the gift of music in so many different genres! Our family enjoys something from each type—yes, even rap. No matter what type of music you prefer, I promise you there is worship music for that genre. (Below I will share a short list of various artists/groups, if you're looking for something new to listen to.)

That reminds me of something the apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 9:19-23, specifically verse 22: "I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some." We're not meant to stay in our own little bubble. We're meant to branch out in faith so that we can help save as many people as possible. That is one reason why I love how worship music—is not just a one-size-fits-all. God gifted us in different ways to help reach as many people as possible with His saving Gospel. The important thing is that the artists we listen to speak truth, and if they don't then we address it and explain to our kids why it's incorrect.

For example, at OSL we sing a song by Cory Asbury and Benjamin William Hastings called "The Father's House." One line that has always bothered me is "You never wanted perfect. You just wanted my heart." The truth is God DOES require perfection. Jesus says in Matthew 5:48 "Be perfect, therefore, just as your Heavenly Father is perfect." So, I rewrote the line to "I know You wanted perfect, but Your grace took my heart." The ultimate gracious, loving act of Jesus dying on the cross is what has made us perfect in front of our Heavenly Father. Being able to recognize lyrics that don't follow the Bible or our Lutheran

Continued on next page

(Biblically-based) doctrine can be a challenge, but if you're ever confused or concerned, going to Pastor, your elder, or even your music director to talk through the lyrics can be helpful. 9 times out of 10 my family has Christian music playing throughout the house. Our home rarely doesn't have music on. When I think about music and its effect on my life, generally and spiritually, I'm reminded of Matthew 12:34 and Proverbs 4:23:

Matt. 12:34 - [Jesus said] "Out of the overflow of the heart, the mouth speaks."

Prov. 4:23 - Above all else, guard your heart for everything you do flows from it.

Basically, whatever goes in, comes out. Scripturally-rooted songs can amplify your faith walk. When your ears are being filled with Spirit-soaked songs, your heart will want more as well. I often find when I am in a "dry spell" of not listening to Christian music and only listen to secular music, I don't talk to God as much. I don't have that worship mindset, so I disconnect from God. But when I finally make that return to my "Worship Mood" playlist on Amazon Music, I find myself reconnecting to and re-engaging with my Creator who deserves all the praise I can possibly give Him.

Music is only one of many ways that we can worship God, but the most important thing to remember with worship is what Jesus stated in John 4:23+24: "Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is Spirit, and His worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth." Worshiping Him in spirit and truth. Worshiping Him with all that we are and have. Worshiping Him everywhere and at all times. And maybe listening to worship music at home will help give you that spark in your soul to step out in faith. Remember, what goes in, comes out. "Out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks." (Matt. 12:34) *What are YOU filling your mind, ears and heart with?*

Worship music genre artists/groups:

-Amanda Easterday, *OSL Music Director*

Hymns/Classics: Keith and Kristyn Getty, Selah, Anchor Hymns, Paul Baloche, Shane & Shane (also Anthems), The Worship Initiative (also Anthems)

Mainstream: Phil Wickham, MercyMe, Matt Maher, Chris Tomlin, Casting Crowns, I AM THEY, Steven Curtis Chapman, Matthew West

Country: Zach Williams (Arkansas native!), Anne Wilson, Joey+Rory, Caleb and John, Ben Fuller

Rock: Stephen Stanley, Skillet, Brandon Lake, Crowder (also Country), TobyMac

Rap: Lecrae, N.F., Tedashii, Hulvey, Connor Price

Anthems: Kari Jobe, Hillsong Worship, Bethel Music, Cece Winans, Charity Gayle

***** Please feel free to chat with me (Amanda Easterday) if you're looking for more specific recommendations!**
Email: abeasterday@yahoo.com