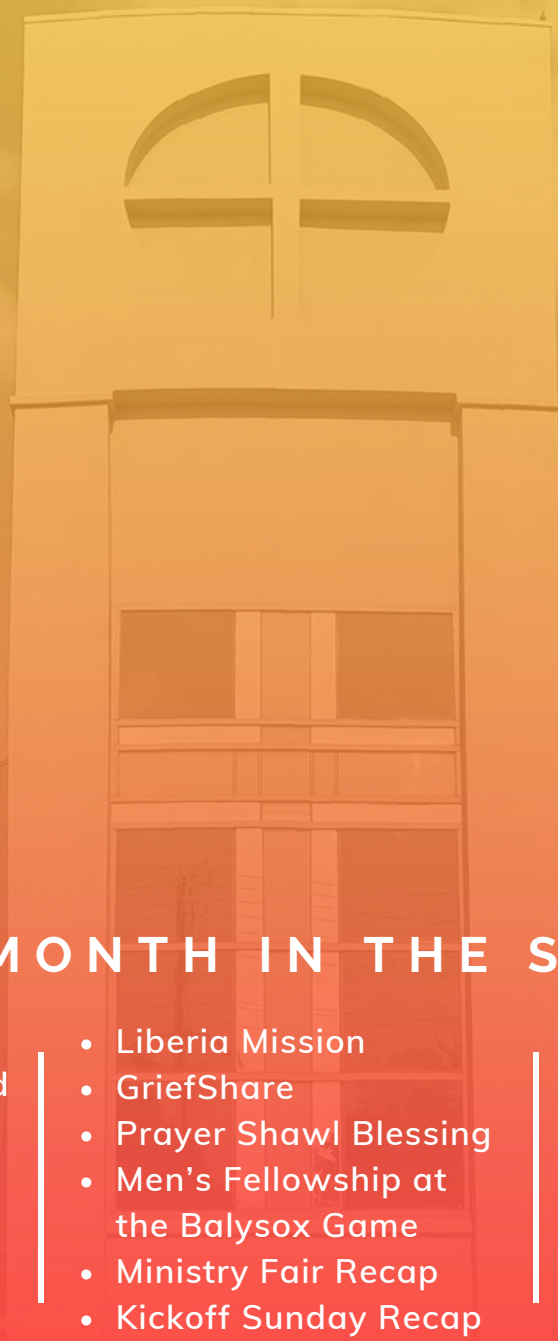


SOUNDS OF OSLC

SEPTEMBER 2026



THIS MONTH IN THE SOUNDS

- From the Pastor
- Governance Board
- Call Process
- Education Hour
- During the Week
- Ways to Serve
- House of Prayer
- Liberia Mission
- GriefShare
- Prayer Shawl Blessing
- Men's Fellowship at the Balysox Game
- Ministry Fair Recap
- Kickoff Sunday Recap
- New Members
- Pastor Peter's Anniversary Invitation
- OSLC Women
- Youth
- Birthdays/Anniversaries
- Resources

From the Pastor

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

Warm Greetings in Christ!

Once again, we have come to the close of another summer. For many, the waning days ahead simply signify another season just around the corner: Football Season! Here at Our Savior, as people settle back into routines for school and work after vacation, we realize there is no better time to offer opportunities for connection, community, growth, and renewal in our walk with God.

Our Kick-Off Sunday, observed on August 30th, marked the beginning of all our disciple-making events and services for the church calendar year (September–August). We recognize this is a season for many to look to the church once again for inspiration and fellowship. We encourage you and your family to prayerfully commit to weekly church attendance and to connect with a small group community.

The Bible tells us in Hebrews 10:25, *“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as you see the day approaching.”* We live in a time when people need to hear the truth of God’s Word, which remains constant and true—even in a world filled with moral instability and distrust.

Again, please feel confident to share your faith and invite others as we grow together in His grace. As we hear God’s Word and pray for Him to build us into a strong community, our lives are transformed and we impact the community around us.

We look forward to being strengthened and rooted in God’s Word together each week throughout September.

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Flahn

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

From the Governance Board

Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 20th at 1:15 pm for our Fall **Congregational Assembly**. A potluck will precede the Assembly immediately after the 10:45 service. Come hear updates from the Call Committee and Ministry Leaders and vote on our FY27 Budget. Your voice is important. Please plan to attend!

CONGREGATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Sept 20, 1:15 pm
Potluck following the
10:45 service

Financial Update from the Board of Governance:

As God's stewards, we are entrusted with time, opportunities, abilities, possessions, and the resources of the earth. We are called to use these gifts responsibly and faithfully.

We acknowledge God's ownership by serving Him and our fellow humans with integrity — returning tithes and giving offerings to support the proclamation of His gospel and the growth of His church. Stewardship is not a burden but a privilege, one that God uses to nurture us in love and free us from selfishness and covetousness.

True stewards find joy in the blessings their faithfulness brings to others. In giving, we reflect the character of the God who first gave to us.

(Gen. 1:26–28; 2:15; 1 Chron. 29:14; Haggai 1:3–11; Mal. 3:8–12; Matt. 23:23; Rom. 15:26–27; 1 Cor. 9:9–14; 2 Cor. 8:1–15; 9:7)

As of July 31st, 2026, our Financials are as follows:

OSLC 11-month Financial Update (Sept-July 2026)

Giving	\$960,318.00
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>(\$888,004.00).</u>
Net	\$72,314.00

Open Arms 11-Month Financial Update (Sept-July 2026)

Giving	\$1,714,632.00
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>(\$1,745,465.00).</u>
Net	(\$30,833.00)

May God continue to shower each of you with His many blessings,

Ethel Rukenbrod

From the Call Committee

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Although we are still in search mode, we are very excited that there have been some promising conversations this week, and we hope to have more. Call Committee Leadership held two “informal” telephone conversations with two pastors from the Midwest. Both are currently seeking a new Call, and both are interested in Our Savior Lutheran Church (along with several other congregations).

While it is not time to share names or profiles, we can share that two areas of concern we have encountered in this process have been candidates’ concerns about the Concordia Retirement Plan and candidates’ concerns about OSLC’s active involvement of women in certain key roles in the congregation.

Both current Pastors with whom we are interacting express strong support for women in leadership roles (other than the role of Pastor). One Pastor said he found it refreshing to hear how many women held key roles at OSLC. On the subject of the Concordia Retirement Plan, one Pastor expressed that he was happy we were not on the plan and said he felt it often “handcuffed” congregations, forcing them to make difficult financial decisions because of their attachment to it. We also heard from one Pastor that he felt our congregation was where he would like his current congregation to be in terms of ministry and diversity.

Something to keep in mind is that in the current climate, where there are so many vacancies and so few Pastors, we are noticing that some potential candidates are moving quickly through their part of the process to arrive at a YES or a NO decision even before a Call has been issued. One Pastor recently shared that he has said NO to eight congregations since April. This shows that Pastors are looking to cut to the chase and move on before the very long and potentially draining Call process concludes. We have also seen that Pastors who have completed the long Call process and declined the Call, were so emotionally drained that they did not have the energy to discuss another potential Call process.

This situation is new and growing; we are learning how to navigate it. It is very similar to what is happening in the non-church corporate world, where qualified candidates call the shots. We will need to adjust our thinking, process, and expectations, but we must be cautious not to rush out of the Fear of Missing Out (FOMO), and therefore circumvent the divine process.

That said, we also continue to encounter the traditional challenges faced by many Pastors: potential careers/employment for their spouse, concerns about the cost of living in the DC-Maryland-Virginia region, schools for their young children, and serving as caregivers for their elderly/aging parents.

In Isaiah 40:31, the Prophet says, *“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”*

Please continue to be hopeful, have faith, and pray for all of these challenges and concerns.

Blessings,

The Call Committee

Call Prayer

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. Joshua 1.9

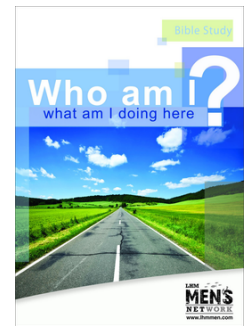
Heavenly Father, grant protection to the heart of your servant that you have chosen as the next senior Pastor of this congregation, give him courage as he makes the decision of leaving his current ministry. May the stress of moving, meeting new people, maintaining relationships never interfere in his decision. Grant him and his family peace, knowing that they are in the will of God. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.

Educational Hour

EVERY SUNDAY AT 9:30 AM

Adults

The Lutheran Hour Ministries study called Who Am I? What Am I Doing Here? The universe, God's will, speaking the Christ story, true human fulfillment, God's Law, the point of it all-these are some of the ideas in Pastor Joel Biermann's explorative video Bible study. In six sessions, he takes us from the beginning to that place where, on the Last Day, we find our greatest realization as humans. A study of Colossians led by John Ndambuki follows this study later in September.



YOUNG ADULTS

For all adults ages 21 to 35 for Bible studies - Spiritual Warfare led by Pastor Flahn. Whether we recognize it or not, we are engaged in a spiritual battle and must live accordingly, as our lives depend on it." (Stu Weber) Does Satan possess a kingdom? Do demons exist? What spiritual armor has God provided for believers in this battle? To examine these questions and related topics, we invite you to join us each Sunday in the Prayer Room.

YOUTH

Join us every Sunday morning in the youth room or "the Way" during the 9:30 hour. High schoolers are also welcome to serve in the nursery, or children's Sunday school. See Fox Wilmot to get connected!

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is starting back up on Sunday, September 13! Or at least we hope to. We desperately need help teaching Sunday School for the children. We are considering moving Children's Sunday School to take place during the 10:45am service immediately following the Children's Sermon. This time change would hopefully allow for more children to be able to attend, but it poses several schedule conflicts for our teachers. If you know anyone who would be able and willing to occasionally teach Sunday School, with materials already provided, please contact Fox Wilmot (fox@oslclairel.org)!

During the Week

MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY

1st and 3rd TUESDAYS AT 7:30 AM - Bob Evan's

Wow, it is September already. Back to school for children, and the end of summer for the rest of us. Perhaps you are thinking of new pursuits this fall, perhaps a new Bible study. Why not try Men's Breakfast Bible Study? We study the scriptures for the upcoming Sunday in an informal gathering from 7:30-9 AM on the first and third Tuesdays each month. For September that will be September 1 and 15. We meet at the Bob Evans Restaurant on Route 198, Corridor Marketplace. All men are welcome. For more information contact Glenn Olsen 240-786-2604.

MANNA IN THE MORNING

TUESDAYS AT 9:30 AM - PRAYER ROOM

Manna in the Morning is an adult Bible study which meets from 9:30 to 11:00 on Tuesday mornings in the Prayer Room. We will resume on September 1st with the study on Mark using N.T. Wright's "For Everyone Bible Study Guide: Mark." Please contact Cynthia Manock at cmanock4000@gmail.com or 240-224-4736 for more information.

MANNA FOR MOMS

TUESDAYS AT 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM - JOHN CONFERENCE ROOM

Manna for Moms is designed for moms of any age children who are interested in developing a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and one another. We will begin a study on The Book of John, "Believe, I Am" by Megan Fate Marshman on Tuesday, September 8th from 1030-1230. We would love to have you join us! Please contact Tia at 443-306-0244 with any questions.

PASTOR FLAHN'S BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAYS AT 7:00 PM VIA [ZOOM](#)

How do we stay close to Jesus, even when threatened by doubt, deception, or the culture around us? This question is as relevant for us today as it was for the early church. In this five-session series, pastor Eric Geiger will take us through the book of Jude, a letter that reminds us that staying faithful to God is an active part of the Christian life. Join Eric and learn to trust the God who calls us, loves us, and keeps us as we strive to stand firm in our faith. Pastor Eric Geiger will serve as our video teacher through Jude. This study meets online from 7:00pm to 8:00pm via [Zoom](#).

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Men's Fellowship meets the first Sunday of the month (September 6) after the 10:45 service. All men are also to invited to meet at the Greene Turtle in Burtonsville on September 17th **at 7:00 pm** for a night of Fellowship with the OSLC Men's group. All men are welcomed and invited! Contact: John Ndambuki

MONTHLY CHURCH-WIDE PRAYER SERVICE

1ST WEDNESDAYS AT 6:00 PM IN THE SANCTUARY

A monthly prayer service will be held at 6:00 PM every first Wednesday of the month in the Sanctuary. The next one will be **September 2**. All are encouraged to come and pray with us.

Serve at OSLC

We NEED your HELP! There are many ways you can serve our community and congregation at OSLC! Take a look below at some of the ways you can serve this month.

Food Bank

We are incredibly grateful for the 'time, treasures, and talents' that you have shared in allowing us to serve our community. The Smiling Souls Food Bank distributes food on the second Saturday of the month. This month it will be on September 12th. We are currently seeking volunteers to assist with Friday evening (5 pm) preparations and Saturday distributions (8:15 am). Thank you for helping us meet this growing need! Please contact Robin Miliner milybmw7@gmail.com for more information.

Elizabeth House

SElizabeth House is a soup kitchen in Laurel that OSLC has served at for years now. We still need more people to help serve! We have a team that serves every first Tuesday of the month - one shift from 4-6 pm, and another from 6 - 8 pm. We are looking to expand this team with more volunteers, so if you are interested please let us know! See Nancy Olsen.

Music

The Sanctuary Choir is back in action after a month off. The choir meets Wednesday nights at 7:00 PM in the Choir Room. All adults are welcome! The annual Christmas Concert will be December 13; the last day to join the Christmas Concert Choir is November 4. If you play an instrument, contact Tico. Tico Meneses, Music Director, tico@oslclaurel.org.

HELP!

Media Team

The Media Team needs additional help. The Media Team consists of those who serve during worship by operating the sound board, the livestream, and the slides. There is great training for each position. To learn more, please contact Joe Hoolihan (joehooli@aol.com) for Sound, Eva Howard (eva.d.howard@gmail.com) for slides, or Dave McGuffey (vz@mcguffvz@mcguffeyfamily.com) for streaming. Youth and adults are welcome to join one or more of the teams . Please don't pass up this opportunity to help with worship. We need you!!

Property - We Need Your Help

We need your help! We have several tasks that are high priority. We need to tackle these quickly. Please [click here to sign up](#) do do one or more of these tasks or see Dave McGuffey for more information.

Invitation to House of Prayer – OSLC Congregation-Wide Monthly Prayer Gathering

Welcome to the September House of Prayer! Prayer is the church's greatest spiritual weapon. The Apostle Paul reminds us, "We are human, but we don't wage war as humans do. We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ." (2 Corinthians 10:3-5 NLT)

Prayer enables us to remain steadfast and confront the spiritual darkness of our time. It serves as a discipline for personal communion with God and for the well-being of our community. For a local church to grow and thrive, it must prioritize united prayer. Here at Our Savior, we are committed to being "strong in the Lord and His mighty power" (Ephesians 6:10). We will strive to be the House of Prayer.

We invite you to join us this Wednesday, September 2nd, at 6:00 PM as we come together in agreement before Almighty God to repent of our sins and intercede for our neighborhoods, our church, our families, and our country. Will you join us this Wednesday at 6:00 PM? We cannot grow weary in our faith or lay down our spiritual weapons. If you desire to see our church grow and flourish under the sustaining power of God's grace, we must prioritize prayer. As Leonard Ravenhill wisely said, "For this sin-hungry age, we need a prayer-hungry church."

God calls us, His children, to cultivate a more profound love for Him and engage in meaningful conversation through prayer. However, we often get caught up in our busy lives and fail to dedicate enough time to prayer. Prayer is crucial for our growth and well-being in every aspect of our ministry. Both private and communal prayer are essential components of a strong, effective, and mission-driven church. "We often treat prayer as a last resort, but God wants it to be our first line of defense."

May God stir our souls and give us a greater burden for the lost as we pray for His revival. I look forward to seeing you on Wednesday, September 2nd, at 6:00 PM.

In Christ alone,

J. Orlando Flahn



Liberia Mission Update

Where Did the Summer Go?

Just as students throughout Maryland are returning to school, the students of Gbueglay Lutheran Elementary School will soon return to their classrooms.

Throughout August, faculty and PTA board members worked diligently to prepare for the new school year. During the second week of the month, they traveled to villages across Gbueglay to encourage parents to enroll their children. The final two weeks of August were devoted to administering entrance exams and completing student registration.

Orientation for new and returning students will be held September 1-4, and classes will begin September 7. Please keep the students, families, faculty, and staff in your prayers as they begin a new school year.

Financial Support for the 2026–2027 School Year

We ask for your continued prayers and support as we prepare for the upcoming school year. Your generous support will help us continue providing funds for our teachers' salaries and our school feeding program. In addition, we are seeking funds for two important projects that will strengthen and support the school community.

Principal's House

We need to build a small house for the principal on the school campus. The house will belong to the school and will be available for the principal to use only while he is employed by the school.

Because the principal is responsible for overseeing the school grounds and helping care for the school community, it is important for him to live on the premises. Our current principal walks more than an hour each way to and from school each day, with his children.

Providing a home on the school campus would eliminate this long daily commute and allow the principal to use that extra time to serve the students, families, and community.

Repairing and Deepening the Well

No, the well is NOT broken! Thanks to the generous support of the LWML, we have a wonderful well at the school that provides clean water throughout the rainy season and for much of the dry season.

Last year, because the rainy season lasted longer than usual, the school was able to draw clean water from the well throughout the entire school year. However, the previous year brought a longer dry season, and the well ran dry before the end of the school year.

For this reason, we are seeking estimates for digging the well deeper. Our hope is that a deeper well will allow us to have access to clean water later into the dry season and provide greater reliability for the school.

(continued on the next page)

Financial Needs for 2026 - 2027 School Year

Average Monthly Expenses		Additional Expenses	
Item	Cost	Item	Cost
Principal Salary: Mr. Dominic Togar	\$100	Principal's House	\$5557
Teacher Salary: Mr. Thomas Johnson	\$75	Repairing Well	TBD
Teacher Assistant Salary: Mrs. Dorcas Glaybogar	\$30	Total	\$5557
Feeding Program	\$300		
Total	\$505		
Total for 11 months	\$5555		

We are grateful for your prayers and support as we work to provide a safe, healthy, and Christ-centered environment for the children and families we serve. Please contact Dana Bynum if you have any questions or would like to join our team.



Are you or someone you know grieving the loss of a loved one? OSLC offers GriefShare, a 13-week support group and seminar. We will begin new 13-week sessions on Monday, Monday Sep 14th from 7-9pm. Please [click this link](#) for more information and to register.

Prayer Shawl Blessing



These new Prayer Shawls were blessed on August 2nd. They are made to be given to anyone struggling with physical, mental, or emotional difficulties, as a physical sign of God's presence with and for them. If you are interested in making them or giving one to someone you know, or have questions, contact Carolyn Hoolihan at 301-490-2926, or stringteacher@verizon.net.

Men's Fellowship



Some of the men from the Men's Fellowship enjoyed a Baysox baseball game on August 21st. To find out where they are going next, see John Ndambuki.

Ministry Fair

August 2026 - Recap

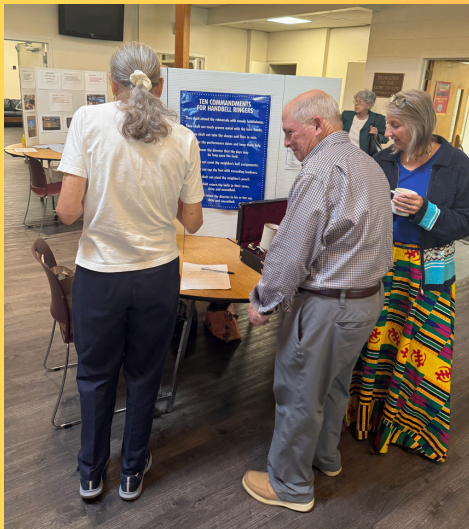
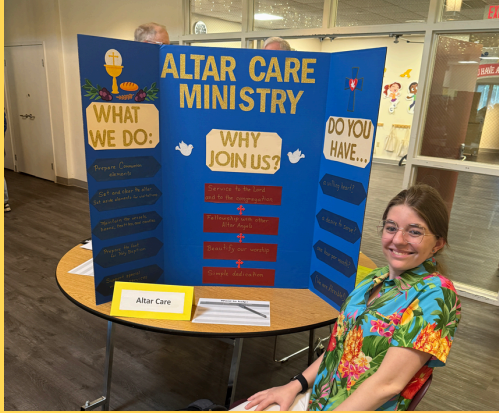


The Ministry Fair highlighted many of our ministries (see the list on the next page). If you were unable to be there August 23rd, watch for future fairs and see what God is doing through the people of Our Savior. If you can't wait for the next one, watch the Pulse and the Sounds for ways you can be a blessing to others in a special way.

Ministry Fair

Our Savior Ministries at the Fair

Elizabeth House
Food Bank
GriefShare
Health
Liberia Mission)
Open Arms
Prayer Shawl
Quilting
Trunk or Treat
Vacation Bible School
Via De Cristo
Women's Ministry (LWML)
Men's Fellowship
Small Groups
Property
Columbarium
Gardening
Property
Altar Care
Audio
Banners and Church
Decorating
Live Streaming
Music
Slides
Worship and Communion
assistants, Readers
Ushers
Adult Bible Class
Children's Sunday School
Manna for Moms
Manna in the Morning
Men's Breakfast
Pastor's Bible Study
Young Adults
Youth



RECAP

KICKOFF SUNDAY

August 30, 2026



Blessing the Students



Blessing the Teachers



Blessing the Parents



Welcome new members: Diana and Jim Kane, Dawn Baldeo, and Josue, Emily, William, Lily, and Ruby Ayala





KICKOFF SUNDAY

August 30, 2026



A big
THANK YOU
to everyone
who came,
helped and
donated food!



A few of the men from the
Men's Fellowship who served
(there were more!)

Outside fun in the bounce house



Chris and Mary Purtilo face painting

A decorative border made of various stained glass panels in shades of blue, purple, gold, and white, featuring abstract and figurative designs, surrounds the central text area.

The members of
Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church
cordially invite you to our worship service of
celebration and thanksgiving
for the 25th Anniversary of Pastor Peter DeMik's
ordination to the Holy Ministry

**CALLED BY THE SPIRIT:
SENT TO SERVE**

**Sunday, September 27th, 2026
3:00PM**

155 Linwood Avenue
Ridgewood, New Jersey 07450
*LCMS Pastors are invited to process to the Altar
& front pews. The color of the day is red.
Festival Worship with Holy Communion
Reception to Follow*

Please RSVP by 9/20 to office@blcmail.org

OSLC Women

Lunch Out for Women, Saturday, September 12th

All women are invited to come and enjoy a relaxing lunch-out with old and new friends. Bring your neighbor, co-worker, friend, daughter, etc on Saturday, September 12th at 12:00pm at Olive on Main, 504 Main St. Laurel, MD 20707. (At own expense) . Please RSVP by September 9th [here](#) or sign up in the Lobby or in Open Arms. For more information contact Tina McGuffey or Diana Kane.

Future Dates for Your Calendar

- Second Sunday of each month: Meet for fellowship, prayers, devotions, and more in the Prayer Room at 12:10 PM (following the 10:45 Service) At our **September 13th** meeting, we will be writing cards for seminarians and also making "Crosses for Benny."
- It's not too late to register for the LWML District Convention, September 25-27 at Virginia Beach, Virginia. Please see Christine Maconachy for registration forms and details. The District Convention is an uplifting mountaintop experience, filled with missionary speakers, testimonies, selection of mission grants, fellowship, church service with communion, singing, dancing, great food, service projects such as making mats for the homeless, Crosses for Benny for LCMS Forged by Fire, and more! (See below for more information)
- Advent by Candlelight, December 5th. Details to follow.

Great News!

Very soon. We will be able to donate our "mites" to LWML Missions that are feet to bring people to Jesus by using a QR Code. Until then, please donate and place your donations in the large Mite Box in the lobby.

District Convention

September 25-September 27, 2026, is the LWML Chesapeake District Convention "The Wonders of God's Love" held at the Founder's Inn and Spa in Virginia Beach, VA. It will be an exciting convention! The President of the LWML, President Eden Keefe. will be attending. Activities include:

- Worship led by Reverend SED President Bill Harmon
- Bible Studies
- Forged by Fire Keynote Speaker Reverend Paul
- Testimonies from Mission Grant Recipients
- Singing, Dancing, Fellowship.....
- Mission Projects: making homeless mats, crosses for Benny and writing cards to seminarians
- Be equipped to serve our Lord



Please contact Christine Maconachy clmacon@aol.com if you are interested in serving and attending as a delegate, representing Our Savior.

***Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as you are doing.
Thessalonians 5:11***

In Christ Alone,
Christine Maconachy
clmacon@aol.com

YOUTH

Wednesday Nights



Wednesday night activities are starting up again on Wednesday September 2nd from 7-8:30pm. This first Youth Group and Confirmation Class meeting will be an introduction into the flow of the year as well as an opportunity for parents to meet with Fox to go over any questions about the year outlook or other procedures.

High School Seniors have gone off to their next steps in young adulthood! They are now starting their journeys in college and the professional world so please continue to pray for them, their success, and well-being.

If you know of someone who is in need of a youth group home, please don't hesitate to reach out! We make an effort to make sure our youth have the opportunity every week to be active in God's Word and fellowship!

Contact Fox Wilmot (fox@oslclare.org) to get connected

IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY

Reach out and celebrate with them

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 01 Robb Wilmot | 19 Jo Rittenhouse |
| 01 Nancy Wilmot | 20 Mary Ellen Kelley |
| 02 Kuvee Kuverua | 20 Daniel Okoro |
| 02 Sammy Lueth | 20 Nancy Shampo |
| 04 Shivana Dinally | 22 Eugene Koud |
| 06 Travis Thompson | 23 Ryan Griffith |
| 07 Joe Hoolihan | 23 Thomas Walter |
| 09 Leiyah Kamoche-Hall | 23 Gunnar Wilson |
| 11 Brittany Cushnie | 24 Karen Soeken |
| 12 Grace Flahn | 24 Tekla Wilson |
| 12 Karen Kemilembe | 25 Njema Warne |
| 13 Richard Bodden | 25 Ally Webb |
| 13 Mason Milarch | 27 Vic Maconachy |
| 13 Travis Walter | 27 Korede Songo-Williams |
| 14 Lisa Rittenhouse | 29 Celeste Bresette |
| 15 Lamia Kuring | 29 Prince Flahn |
| 17 Kim Benik | 29 Amy Howard |
| 17 Kenneth Rukenbrod II | |

ANNIVERSARIES

- 17 Paul and Janice Comolli
- 17 John and Christine Milleker
- 22 Peter and Gabriell Walsh
- 25 Mark and Lisa Cummata
- 30 Cory and Jamie Rau



Member RESOURCES

OSLCLAUREL.ORG

Our Website

Use our website to get connected to what is going on at OSLC, submit a prayer requests, watch sermons, quick access to live stream links, and much more!

RIGHT NOW MEDIA

Over 20,000 video-based bible studies

[click here to learn more about how to get connected through our church account!](#)

BREEZE

[Get connected with our church database](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)



Thank you for reading to the end of this issue of the Sounds.

See you next month!

**Thank
you!**