

# OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

## DIRECTORY FOR 2015

**PASTOR:** Doug Opp  
**OFFICE MANAGER:** Pam Steckler  
**CUSTODIANS:** Brad & Kylie Stroehler  
**WORSHIP & MUSIC COORDINATOR:** Jane Weber  
**DIRECTOR OF PRAISE BAND:** Jo Beane  
**THE ROCK YOUTH LEADERS:** Sara Slater, Nate Vorm, Tracie Christensen, Mary Jo Burger, Jennifer Fliflet

### CHOIR DIRECTORS:

**Sr. Choir — Gary Keller; Accompanist - Kelly Polson**

**Kids Choir — Julie Opp & Jane Weber, Teresa Moran (Assistant)**

**ORGANISTS/PIANISTS — Janice Hemmingsen, Barb Smith, Ryan Weber & Kelly Polson**

**CHURCH COUNCIL — Meets 3rd Wednesday of the month**

**President — Steve Mathisen**

**Vice- President — Jolene Burns**

**Secretary — LaDona Jorgensen**

**Treasurer — Dan Madsen**

**Council members — Kurt Nelson, Lorri Thygesen, Dan Smith,  
Kyle Kjergaard, Mike Kuchel, Diana Deist**

**2015 Completed executive committee & council member terms — Dan Madsen, Kurt Nelson,  
Kyle Kjergaard**

### Committees

#### Stewardship:

Dan Jorgensen

Frank Olsen

Tim Morgan

Dan Smith (Council Rep.)

Nancy Olsen

Dan Madsen

#### Worship:

Elaine Jorgensen

Judy Baker

Linda Keller

Kelly Polson

Raydene Mathisen

Jane Weber (Worship & Music Coordinator)

Kyle Kjergaard (Council Rep.)

Ruth Kuchel

#### Education:

Megan Kjergaard

Rachael King

Mary Jo Burger

Pam Steckler

Sara Vorm

Diana Deist (Council Rep.)

Heather Toft

Kim Heller

#### Evangelism:

Joyce Taggart

Nadine Christensen

Alice Hemmingsen

Lorri Thygesen (Council Rep.)

Elayne Sinow

Joan Mortensen

#### Building & Property:

Kurt Nelson (Council Rep.)

Robert Sornson

Wes Thygesen

Mike Kuchel

Arch Andersen

<b>Nominating Committee:</b>	<b>Norma Nielsen</b>	<b>Richard Hemmingsen</b>
	<b>Shellie Madsen</b>	<b>Jason Smith</b>
	<b>Kaylene Riebhoff</b>	<b>Jeff Albertsen</b>
<b>Scholarship:</b>	<b>Lisa Frederiksen</b>	<b>Ed Jackson</b>
	<b>Lyle Hansen, Jr.</b>	
<b>Mutual Ministry:</b>	<b>Todd Nelsen</b>	<b>Dan Schmidt</b>
	<b>Troy Hagedorn</b>	<b>Marlene Englin</b>
	<b>Cindy Vokt</b>	
<b>Wellness Committee:</b>	<b>Shellie Madsen</b>	<b>Julie Opp</b>
	<b>Barb Jacobsen</b>	<b>Jeanne Schwab</b>
<b>Mission Ministry Team:</b>	<b>Julie Opp</b>	<b>Barb Christensen</b>
	<b>Diana Deist</b>	<b>Jolene Burns</b>
	<b>Lee Nielsen</b>	<b>Norma Nielsen</b>
	<b>Tim Morgan</b>	<b>Teresa Morgan</b>
	<b>Linda Hansen</b>	<b>Tim Andersen</b>
	<b>Dan Smith</b>	<b>Lisa Frederiksen</b>
<b>Women of the Word (WOW) Officers:</b>	<b>Co-Chairs: Sharolyn Fett &amp; Joan Nielsen</b>	
	<b>Secretary:</b>	
	<b>Treasurer: Sandy Parsons</b>	
	<b>Mission Action: Donis Hansen &amp; Janice Andersen</b>	

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## ANNUAL REPORT OF PASTOR DOUG OPP

I love the description of another recently formed Lutheran body in America which reminds its membership and the world around them that they are: Christ Centered, Mission Driven, Traditionally Grounded and Congregationally Focused. Those four concise, descriptive phrases define who I believe we are at OSLC, a Lutheran Congregation in Mission for Christ. If you are not aware of this working definition of the Our Saviour's Lutheran faith family, than I strongly encourage you to become more invested in the ministry and mission of your congregation.

It was Lutheran Pastor, Theologian and Author, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, while writing from a Nazi prison in 1944, who stated that, "The Church is the Church only when it exists for others." Who are the others some may ask? They are those who have never heard of a loving Savior. They are those not yet on Christian church membership roles and therefore have little to no Christian memory. They are those who were once churched but left years ago, the largest number in history now being the 'Nones' who are men and women of every generation claiming no church affiliation. They are individuals who may very well be our own children, a spouse, a neighbor, a colleague and/or an unknown person we encounter in our daily walk of faith.

Membership in God's church is a privilege! It is not to be taken lightly. It means that we each have a responsibility to willingly share our God-given gifts in His kingdom work. We are not to be preoccupied, primarily with maintenance ministry, and as a result turned inward tending mainly to our own comforts and perceived needs. Rather, we are to invest our God-given time, talents and treasures in ministry and mission, being Christ to others, primarily those who do not presently have a personal relationship with Jesus as their Lord and Savior, those who are not presently a part of His Church. We need to strive for a mindset of serving the unchurched as well as those in need of encouragement and assistance within the body of Christ.

We need to step out of our self-imposed comfort zones to willingly follow Christ into the mission field which does includes our homes, our places of work, our schools and community and nation. The United States of America is now the third largest mission field in the entire world! The unchurched numbers continue to rise in Iowa as well as in Audubon County. Casey's General Stores, Starbucks Coffee Shops, Sports Arenas and Malls have become the primary places people gather on a regular basis for fellowship and relationship building. We cannot deny the fact that the need is real and the opportunities to share the love of Christ are always before us.

So then I urge you to be mindful that our identity is: Christ Centered, Mission Driven, Traditionally Grounded and Congregationally Focused. God has a place for you to serve in His kingdom work. Church is not a building, but rather Christ followers faithfully proclaiming God's love in this fallen world.

Thank you for this past year of partnership in ministry and mission! Sorry, but I tend to use this annual report as a means to challenge each of you rather than to reference what has happened during the last year. That information is provided in the rest of this annual report. God has been good to us! May we individually and collectively respond by giving Him the praise and the honor!

Pastor Doug



## OSLC PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Recently I was looking at my baptismal certificate. I was baptized in this church on May 13, 1956. On my certificate of baptism, I found a reading from Matthew 28:19 written on the inside cover: Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This is Christ's program of missions, to make disciples of all nations and to spread the good word! Our church has done a great job of inviting more disciples into the church and that can be proven with the steady growth we have seen in new members over the past year.

Similar to the verse from the book of Matthew, Pastor Friedrich Trost's, "Followership Series" just finished an 8 week session that helps put into perspective that again, we are the ambassador's of Christ. We need to spread the word. LCMC that's who we are, a Lutheran Congregation in Mission for Christ.

Our 17 staff members and church council work hard and are very conscious of their positions. We need to remind our staff how valuable they really are to us. We can be thankful that we have the talent that we do in this church. Along the same line, each and everyone of us have many special gifts that God has given us to use in his honor, whether it's washing dishes or leading a bible study. As Pastor Doug has said more than once, we need to get out of our comfort zone and try something new.

We had one major project this year with the tuckpointing. This project had been on the back burner for about a year. The majority of the contributions came in a timely manner so we could proceed with sealing the stone as was recommended. Thank you to all who contributed to this fund along with the other necessities that were required throughout the year.

Sincerely,  
Steve Mathisen

## NURSING HOME VESPERS & COMMUNION SERVICES

Members of Our Saviour's have volunteered to experience scheduled monthly Thursday communion services with residents of the Friendship Home, as well as Sunday afternoon Vesper worship services at the Exira Care Center and the Friendship Home. OSLC Women of the Word play an important role in helping with the monthly communion services, and we thank and praise God for them, and for the many others who have used their time, talents, and gifts to the glory of God in these ministries. If you are interested in volunteering to worship with the residents or to be a piano accompanist, please contact Pastor Doug.

## NURSERY MINISTRY

OSLC is blessed to have a Nursery Ministry available during Sunday morning worship for children through age four throughout the school year. The church chapel is the home to our Nursery, open from 8:45 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. The Nursery is staffed the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month with additional volunteers the other Sundays. The Nursery is used with one to five children on a regular basis. If you would like to volunteer for this ministry, there is a sign up sheet on the door of the chapel door or contact the church office. This ministry is readily welcomed by our young families of OSLC and guests.

## **PRAYER FELLOWSHIP**

Jesus chased the money changers out of the temple declaring that His house would be a house of prayer!! We have many opportunities here at Our Saviour's to be involved in this great gift of prayer---communion with our Lord Jesus---truly being a "House of Prayer".

- \*We have prayer before, during and after worship.
- \*Prayer Lines.
- \*At all of our team meetings.
- \*Sunday School classes, Confirmation Classes, The Rock Youth Group.
- \*Circle meetings---Bible Study times.
- \*Quilting and other activities with fellowship time.
- \*Anytime and every time we come together is the time to "seek His face".
- \*In our homes, with our family and friends.
- \*Healing Service.
- \*Prayer Shawl Ministry.
- \*Silent Shepherding.

God's Word reminds us that when two or three come together, Christ is in our midst. There truly is no greater joy than to be at "one" with our Lord Jesus!!

In expectation of prayer growth, Franklin Graham will be holding a time of prayer in every state of the union in 2016, being in Des Moines on January 5<sup>th</sup>. The Lord commends us to humble ourselves, to pray and to seek His face and turn from our wicked ways---then He will heal our land---2nd Chronicles 7:14.

If you would like to be part of a prayer group---serve on a prayer line--need a prayer partner--or have a prayer request, please contact Pastor Doug or Barbara Christensen.

## **WORKCAMP 2015**

The 2015 Mission Workcamp in Racine, Wisconsin was again a great experience for our youth. We began our trip on Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 a.m. and arrived in Racine shortly after 1:00 p.m.

The weather that week was cool and sometimes wet, but Wednesday was the warmest day. Wednesday was our afternoon off and we went to the beach on Lake Michigan and visited a museum.

The week was filled with meaningful devotions and uplifting worship, as well as the work in the community. Most of the work was painting the exteriors of the host families homes, but there was some construction work as well. The theme for the week was "REFRAMED" for we are being reframed in the image of our Lord Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit!

Kayla Polson, Miranda Nelsen, Kyle Polson, Logan Nielsen and Lee Nielsen were present at this years mission workcamp and would like to thank the congregation for the prayers and the support given to this ministry. May the Lord continue to bless this mission work in the future.

In mission for Christ,  
Lee Nielsen

## 2015 MISSION MINISTRY REPORT

OSLC is a mission-focused, Christ-centered faith community. We pray for the Lord's lead as we engage this post-modern world with the Good News of God's saving grace for people of all age groups. Thank you for your investment in mission ministry in your homes, in our community, our state, our nation and throughout the world! This year, as in previous years, we have been blessed with positive mission-spirited energy, sacrificially giving in mission with your precious time, talents and treasures!

Some mission ministers we share a partnership with include the following:

Caring and Sharing	New Opportunities
The Stork's Nest	CROP Walk
Youth Workcamp	Meals From The Heartland
The Church of the Damascus Road in Rockwell City	Bethany Farm Camp
Hope Ministries of Des Moines	Hesed International
World Vision	Lutheran Services in Iowa
Audubon County Jail	Gospel for Asia
Blessman Ministries-South Africa Mission	Compassion International
The Copeland Family in Long Beach California	Operation Christmas Child
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Quilting Ministry
Ingham/Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp	Community Christmas Dinner
Six LCMC mission churches in the U.S. & South Africa	December Christmas Caroling
Silent Shepherding (praying for the names of our faith community printed in the Upper Room devotionals)	

God Bless you and your witness through word and deed!  
Pastor Doug

## KOINONIA

The sharing of monetary gifts brings hope, joy and peace to those who are in troublesome times. We thank God that we have been able to extend help to many who are experiencing a crisis and are in need of funds to receive this help throughout the years. We also extend our thanks to everyone who contributes to this fund.

Committee: Janice Hemmingsen, Jolene Burns, Chip Hansen

## 2015 KOINONIA REPORT

January 1, 2015 Beginning Balance.....	\$2,380.67
2015 Requests for funds.....	\$200.00
2015 Interest/Donations.....	\$21
December 31, 2015 Balance.....	\$2,180.88

## OSLC ALTAR GUILD

It has been my pleasure to serve as Altar Guild chair for over two years now. I will need to recruit two new members early in 2016. Members from the Altar Guild team serve one month per year in teams of three. It's the responsibility of the Altar Guild to set up and take down the communion service on Sunday's and also a couple of special services. They also take the vase liners to the flower shop each week and deliver altar flowers to individuals if asked to. The altar linens are kept clean and in good repair. We also help with preparation for baptism services.

I would like to thank everyone who serves on the Altar Guild. It is a very important part of worship preparation. If anyone would like to serve, please give me a call. I would love to have a waiting list.

Janice Hemmingsen, Altar Guild chair person

## **THE BUILDING & PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

The Building & Property committee meet the second Monday of the month.

1. We installed a new security camera system and door alarm in our main entryways.
2. We installed a new drinking water cooler in the entryway hallway.
3. We installed a mail slot in the church office.
4. We installed a new phone system which has been a welcomed update.
5. The Tuckpointing Project has been completed. Thank you for your generous support!
6. A new roof has been installed on the bell tower.
7. New traps have been installed in the entire heating system.
8. We installed new energy efficient light fixtures in the gym.
8. This year we passed our elevator and boiler inspections.
9. Two visits yearly our pipe organ gets thoroughly checked for problems with usually minor adjustments.

Along with these major projects come many, many small repairs, that not many people see, that are completed. As always the door is open to new faces that would like to be on the committee. The Property Committee sincerely appreciates keeping the Lord's house in excellent condition with your continued contributions.

Bob Sornson, Wes Thygesen, Arch Andersen,  
Mike Kuchel (Council Rep.), Kurt Nelson (Council Rep.)

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

The Education Committee's highlights and challenges in 2015:

This year for Preschool- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade we are using "Buzz" curriculum and Junior High is using D1. Pastor Doug taught five weeks of Holy Communion classes for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade beginning March 2<sup>nd</sup> and First Communion was April 6<sup>th</sup>. The 6<sup>th</sup> graders received acolyte instruction that started on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and they began their acolyting duties in June.

We had our annual trip to the Friendship Home to sing for the residents on Palm Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. The kids enjoyed singing for the residents and giving them the palm branches that were used in the Children's Palm Processional during worship.

The Sunday School year ended with the annual Celebration of Sunday School on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Education Committee created a slideshow to show the activities throughout the Sunday School year and the kids sang various songs. All Sunday School participants received a certificate of attendance and those who missed three or less Sundays received a medal for Outstanding Attendance.

Family Fun Day was held after worship on June 28<sup>th</sup>. Our committee was in charge of the games for the kids. The weather was great and the children and parents had a wonderful time. After worship and games, congregation members and families enjoyed waffles and sausages.

Vacation Bible School was held Sunday, July 12<sup>th</sup> -Wednesday, July 15<sup>th</sup> for 3 year olds - 4<sup>th</sup> grade. The majority of our decorations came from Grace E-Free Church out of Huxley. They were gracious enough to let us use them and then we passed them onto a church in Des Moines. This year we started on Sunday after worship and went until two o'clock; combining two days into one. During the week, Bible school was held in the evening from 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. The theme was "Everest-Conquering Challenges with God's Mighty Power". We had daily lessons, music, and activities that reminded us about the love of Jesus. The week ended with a short program and slideshow for families to see what we had been doing all week. After the program, everyone was invited downstairs for maid-rites and fellowship. We again invited non OSLC members to attend and had another very successful and well run VBS with about 80 kids, 20 helpers, and 35 adults.

Fall 2015 started with Rally Day on August 30<sup>th</sup>. We presented Preschool students with their Beginner Bibles and third graders were presented their NIV Adventure Bible. A fellowship breakfast was served by the South Africa Mission group following worship.

Sunday School offering has accumulated and we have explored ways to use it and show the students that their gifts they bring each Sunday are supporting a good cause, helping another child, and spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ! The 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders were given the choice for a couple of weeks where their money was going - Operation Christmas Child or Compassion International.

We continue to sponsor two children from Tanzania through Compassion International ministry - a girl, Grace, and a boy, Ibrahimu. We have sent letters to these children throughout the year and have been supporting them financially. We also have given monetary birthday and Christmas gifts. They have written us back and drawn us pictures many times! Our students have taken turns writing them letters, drawing them pictures or making a craft. It is our goal to keep the OSLC congregation informed and these children visible to them as well.

The Sunday School children were represented at the annual Deck the Agri-Hall event in November. Kim Heller organized the tree this year with the theme of "Giving".

The annual Sunday School Christmas program was held December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015 during worship and we changed the Christmas program to "*Christmas*" Store Window Play. We gave each Sunday School family an Advent Calendar. The birthday party for Jesus and fun day was December 20<sup>th</sup> during the Sunday School hour with a variety of holiday activities. We took a two week Christmas break and resumed classes on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

We offer Kids Night Out the third Saturday of the month from 5:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. to any children, ages 3 through 6<sup>th</sup> grade, who are either members of OSLC or attending Sunday School, Kids Choir or Worship. The children come together for games, fun, snacks, a movie and fellowship. We do not offer this event during the summer months or the month of December. We have had more than 30 families enjoy this ministry at OSLC. Thank you to all the adult and youth volunteers who have helped make Kids Night Out a success. It has been wonderful for the kids to enjoy fellowship with all age groups of children, youth & adults. Through this ministry we have seen relationships develop between kids/youth/adults of all ages which has been truly a gift from God. Contact the church office or a member of the Education Committee to find out how you can be involved in this ministry or any youth ministry at OSLC.

Plans for 2016 and upcoming challenges:

- ~Growing class sizes with small classrooms.
- ~How to reach out to our inactive families or those children we only see a few times a year.
- ~Keep the Compassion Child ministry going and growing with Sunday School offering.
- ~Holy Communion instruction for 5<sup>th</sup> grade offered in the Spring of 2016.
- ~6<sup>th</sup> grade acolyte instruction in the Spring of 2016.

- ~Prepare for VBS.
- ~Recruit SS teachers, VBS leaders, and new members for the Education Committee.
- ~Discuss ways to help support children financially who want to attend Bible School.
- ~Budget needs and requests.

The Education Committee welcomes Kim Heller this year to the committee and we all would like to offer our appreciation to our teachers, parent volunteers, and music leaders. The many activities of the Sunday School students would not be possible without the outstanding support of our volunteers. We look forward to working with the youth of Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church and to a rewarding 2016.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Megan Kjergaard - Rachael King  
 Pam Steckler—Mary Jo Burger  
 Heather Toft - Sara Vorm  
 Kim Heller - Diana Deist (Council Representative)

### **WORSHIP COMMITTEE**

The Worship committee is responsible in working with Pastor Doug, church council, altar guild, ushers, taxi drivers, Praise Band, choirs, organists, projection system/sound/video operators, nursery workers, and assisting with all regular and special worship services at our church, Friendship Home, and Exira Care Center. Our thanks go to those who so graciously serve the Lord by participating in or by overseeing these many areas of worship.

Following is a summary of some of the events we worked on this past year. Special services held were Healing Services, Lenten, Palm Sunday, Easter, All Saints’ Sunday, Thanksgiving Eve, Advent, and Christmas. Church Music Sunday was held on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Special music was lined up for summer Sundays. A family activity with games and brunch was held in conjunction with the Education Committee following worship on June 28<sup>th</sup>. We assisted the Stewardship Committee on August 23<sup>rd</sup> with Praise in the Park (moved indoors due to wind and wet grass and stage) led by Pastor Doug and the Praise Band. An eight week series entitled “Followership” was led by Pastor Fritz Trost on Wednesday evenings beginning September 30<sup>th</sup>. In recognition of All Saints’ Sunday votive candles were lit in memory of loved ones on November 1<sup>st</sup>, with invitations going out to relatives of funerals held at OSLC during the preceding year. We coordinated decorating the church for fall and Advent. Wednesday Advent services were held with Audubon church choirs from the Presbyterian, Methodist, OSLC, St. Patrick’s Catholic, and Ebenezer Lutheran Churches on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, guest speaker Caleb Nelson on December 9<sup>th</sup>, and Behind the Cross Praise Band on December 16<sup>th</sup>. Caroling was held on December 13<sup>th</sup> for confirmation students, their mentors and the congregation. Children’s messages continue to be a part of worship on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of each month; volunteers are needed for this important ministry.

Music has always been an important tradition at Our Saviour’s and we are grateful to the directors, accompanists, musicians and singers who share their musical gifts. Behind the Cross Praise Band continues to lead worship once a month at our church, August through May. The Praise Band consists of 11 youth under director Jo Beane’s leadership, along with “sound man” Gary Keller, and is enjoyed by youth through adults both in our church and in the community. The Senior Choir (Director Gary Keller and accompanist Kelly Polson) and Kids Choir (Co-Directors Jane Weber and Julie Opp and choir assistant Teresa Morgan) meet September through May with each singing twice a month during worship and for some special services, which greatly adds to our worship experience. We also wish to thank those who volunteer to provide special music during the summer months.

A Nursery during Sunday worship for infants through four year olds has been a valuable service to many families in our congregation. The Nursery is staffed twice a month (September – May) by nursery attendants and by volunteers the remaining Sundays. Our thanks go to those who volunteer their time to this service for our church families.

Due to existing deteriorating altar paraments needing replaced, Altar Guild chair Janice Hemmingsen led a committee to oversee the gradual replacement of the paraments. Through the generosity of donors, two sets of paraments were replaced in 2015. With continued donations, replacement of remaining sets will continue. The sanctuary Projection System (installed June, 2014) continues to be a valuable teaching tool and enhancement to our worship experience. Both staff and volunteers are involved in the preparation and operating of the Projection System.

Our Saviour's is blessed with many faithful volunteers who commit themselves to carrying out the work of the Lord!

#### OSLC Worship Committee

Elaine Jorgensen

Raydene Mathisen

Linda Keller

Kelly Polson

Judy Baker

Ruth Kuchel

Kyle Kjergaard (Council Rep.)

Jane Weber (Music/Worship Coordinator)

#### **EVANGELISM COMMITTEE**

**Ephesians 4:11-12 "It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists and some to be pastors and teachers to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up".**

Some of our Evangelism Opportunities during the church year are:

- Confirmation reception.
- Graduation reception.
- New member receptions. Give a "welcome bag" to the new members and their families and lapel flowers.
- A photography team has been formed to take photos of church events: Lorri Thygesen, Emily & Alice Hemmingsen, Monica & Madison Hagedorn, Melanie Jensen and Samantha Halbur and Shelby Jensen.
- Keep Cradle Roll updated and the Cradle Roll board that hangs in the entry way. Joyce Taggart manages this project.
- Baptism banners are created for baptismal celebrations by Sharolyn Fett & Alice Hemmingsen.
- Honor Mothers on Mother's Day with devotional books. This includes Moms that are in the Friendship Home or shut-ins.
- Honor Fathers on Father's Day with candy bars. Also Dads in the Friendship Home and shut-ins.
- Furnish extra treats for the various holidays.
- Hand out sacks of peanuts and an apple to all children on Christmas Eve.
- Line up greeters for the extra services during the church year.
- A military board honoring our military men and women serving our country. Pictures are located on the hallway bulletin board.
- Newspaper ads are placed in the local paper announcing Holy Week, Easter, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.
- The lawn banner now announces various church functions, Vacation Bible School, Rally Sunday or "Jesus Lives"! This is a great evangelism tool.
- "Cookies to our service men and women" stationed overseas from Iowa project is our newest project.
- "Pack the Pews" is a January event.

Members:

Alice Hemmingsen, Nadine Christensen, Joan Mortensen, Joyce Taggart, Elayne Sinow, and Lorri Thygesen (Council Rep.)

## OSLC WELLNESS MINISTRY COMMITTEE

In Matthew 22:37 Jesus gives us the Great Commandment. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.”

There are many definitions for wellness. The Alliance Institute for Integrative Medicine views wellness as much more than just a state of physical health. It also encompasses emotional stability, clear thinking, the ability to love, create, embrace change, exercise intuition and experience a continuing sense of spirituality. The World Health Organization includes in its definition “...a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”

It is easy to notice the similarities between Jesus’ commandment and the definitions of wellness. In order to fully embrace Jesus’ commandment we need to have wellness in all aspects of our lives.

Attending worship service, participating in prayer and Bible study, reading the Word of God, and fellowship with other Christians may not seem like “wellness activities”, but they are integral to spiritual wellness. The Wellness Committee continues to offer free blood pressure checks on the third Sunday of each month following the worship service. A monthly wellness tip is printed in every Shepherd’s staff newsletter. The committee welcomes other community members to have their blood pressure checked and encourages the sharing of the wellness tips.

## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The Stewardship Committee continued to move forward implementing several programs throughout the year.

With Pastor Doug’s guidance, we met to organize and implement several activities along with discussing budget concerns throughout the year.

The Stewardship Committee responsibilities included:

- Distribution of the monthly Stewardship Newsletter on the first Sunday of each month in worship.
- The Committee funded the Wellness Ministry Team for 2015.
- Hosted the Praise in the Park Worship and Potluck meal.
- Implemented and planned the annual Consecration Sunday the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of every October. The Committee works with the Office Manager to plan for commitment cards and the October newsletter mailing. The commitment cards are then gathered and used to help plan the next year’s budget before sending our recommendations to the full church council.
- We hosted the first of three Advent Suppers in December.
- Plan/discuss options for year-round Stewardship Education/Information for OSLC.
- Host new member class as needed throughout the year. Since 2010, there have been approximately 110 new members added to our congregation!!
- Prepare Annual Congregational Financial Report for each fiscal year.
- Support sending two special mailings each year. One for Easter and the second one for Christmas.

Our members of this committee include:

Dan Jorgensen, Dan Smith, Frank Olsen, Tim Morgan, Dan Madsen and Nancy Olsen

## **2015 NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

President: Steve Mathisen  
Vice President: Jolene Burns  
Secretary: LaDona Jergenson  
Treasurer: Matt Heller

### **Council Members**

Diana Deist: One more year on her term  
Mike Kuchel: One more year on his term  
Dan Smith: One more year on his term  
Lorri Thygesen: Will serve another two year term  
Kaylene Riebhoff: Will serve a two year term  
Jason Smith: Will serve a two year term

### **Nominating Committee for 2016**

Outgoing council members: Kurt Nelson and Kyle Kjergaard  
Members at large: Brandon Toft, Lee Nielsen, Laurie Gilbert and Dan Madsen

LCMC International Gathering Denver, Colorado, October 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, 2016: Dick and Judy Baker

Heartland District Conference Omaha, NE, August 2016: Rich and Janice Hemmingsen

Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp Annual Meeting: LaDona Jergenson

### **WOW Women of the Word**

Co-chairs: Carol Albertsen and Mary Kay Lewis  
Co-secretaries: Carol Spitler and Sharlene Merk.

## **THE ROCK YOUTH GROUP**

The Rock Youth and leaders have had a fun and busy year! We started out the year with 35 youth participating in the Dodgeball Tournament. Later in January the youth travelled to Council Bluffs to enjoy WinterJam. The Kids then helped with the Soup-er Bowl fundraiser which we are so grateful is a great turnout for the Rock Youth group. In February, the Aquire the Fire youth conference we were planning to attend was cancelled, so instead the Rock youth travelled to West Des Moines to Hope Lutheran and to see John Tibbs, Finding Favor, Audio Adrenaline, and Newsboys perform, this was a big hit with our youth! The youth presented "This Blood" during Palm Sunday Service. We also invited the congregation to Easter Breakfast. On May 2<sup>nd</sup>, nine youth helped stain the Friendship gazebo and then travelled to West Des Moines to Sky Zone for some fun. On May 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> the Leaders had the opportunity to travel to Minneapolis for Leadership training, it was a fun trip and very informative. In June we had our Pool Party that was attended by 22 youth. We grilled and shared devotion at Albert the Bull Park and then had Bible games at the pool followed by free swim time. The adults had as much fun as the youth! September 26<sup>th</sup> we planned a trip to Council Bluffs for a horse trail ride but we were rained out (didn't expect 15 inches of rain that week). Instead we took 10 youth to the Harlan Rec. Center to play and swim followed by a trip to Dairy Queen. October 3<sup>rd</sup> we had 11 rock youth as well as 9 congregation members join us for a trip to West Des Moines to attend the All the Earth is Holy Ground Tour with Tenth Avenue North. October 11<sup>th</sup> our confirmation kids and congregation members raised \$570.50 for Crop Walk. We had a beautiful day for the walk and we had about 35 walkers from our congregation! October 31<sup>st</sup> we tried for the first time a Rock Chalk Run/Walk. We had about 50 registered walker/runners. We helped organize the run and meal and the Praise band offered us music

as we ate, it was a wonderful afternoon! Thank you to all that participated/volunteered/made sure to get your runner there! November 15<sup>th</sup> we had a relaxing movie night with nine youth present. We watched *Grace Unplugged*, it was a nice afternoon with friends. To end the year, The Rock joined in with Christmas caroling in December and helped serve an Advent Soup Supper! Thank you for all your support, we are so blessed and appreciate all the support you give to The Rock Youth Group!

The Rock Youth Group Leaders:

Sara Slater, Tracie Christensen, Nate Vorm, Mary Jo Burger

### **OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN WOMEN OF THE WORD**

Officers for 2015 were:

Co-Chairs: Sharolyn Fett and Joan Nielsen

Secretary: Officers

Treasurer: Sandy Parsons

Mission Action: Donis Hansen and Janice Andersen

Committees:

Caring & Sharing: Norma Nielsen, Judy Baker and Lela Gleason

Nominating Committee: Board Members

Our Women of the Word continued to be active in providing assistance with many events here at Our Saviour's. These include providing and serving coffee and cookies/bars every Sunday following worship services, serving funerals, greeting church members and visitors each Sunday morning, delivering Meals on Wheels, Friendship Home birthday parties and helping with Friendship Home communion and cleaning the church kitchen. Our Mission Action committee kept busy sewing quilts, providing layettes, school kits and health kits for Lutheran World Relief. Thank you to all the Women of OSLC for your generous support this past year.

The WOW officers met on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 to update the Women of the Word 2016 booklet. All new members were added to the monthly schedule.

December 2015 Distribution of annual funds benevolences went too:

Lutheran World Relief: \$100.00

Okoboji Bible Camp Fund: \$100.00

Okoboji Camping Ministries: \$100.00

Good Neighbor Center: \$100.00

Caring and Sharing: \$100.00

Friendship Home: \$100.00

Exira Care Center: \$100.00

Cass, Inc.: \$100.00

Hope Ministries: \$100.00

Story Book Project: \$100.00

New Hope: \$100.00

Family Crisis Center: \$100.00

We donated \$400.00 to Nate & Kendra Bladt to help with their house fire and also contributed \$300.00 towards the new paraments for our church.

Christmas Gifts to OSLC employees:

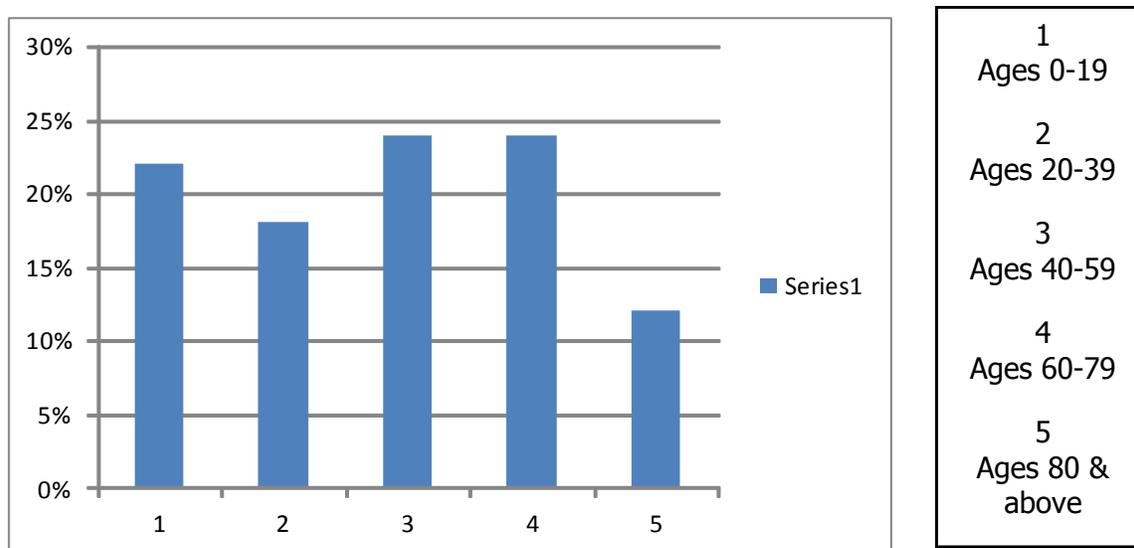
Pastor Doug: \$90.00, Pam Steckler: \$45.00, Brad & Kylie Stroehrer: \$45.00, Jane Weber: \$45.00

Respectfully Submitted,  
WOW

## STATISTICAL REPORT

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
Average Weekly Worship Attendance	195	199	223	239	249	241	231	223
Baptisms	8	2	5	7	11	10	11	10
Marriages	4	1	6	4	3	7	4	3
Confirmations	12	7	10	9	12	6	7	5
Funerals	15	10	12	21	18	13	12	15
New Members	6	2	27	7	34	20	3	29
Baptized Active Membership	574	572	580	572	588	590	603	623

### A DECEMBER, 2015 DEMOGRAPHIC OF OSLC ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP TOTALING 603 BAPTIZED MEMBERS



### Education Fund Balances - 2015

	Special Fund		TOTAL
	Education Fund	CD	
<b>Beginning Balances</b>	<b>14,830.97</b>	<b>10,000.00</b>	<b>19,523.21</b>
<b>Loan Repayments</b>	<b>2,150.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2,150.00</b>
<b>Loans Issued</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Interest Earned</b>	<b>18.45</b>	<b>44.99</b>	<b>87.96</b>
<b>Interest Transferred</b>	<b>44.99</b>	<b>-44.99</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Ending Balances</b>	<b>17,044.41</b>	<b>10,000.00</b>	<b>19,611.47</b>
<b>Outstanding Loans:</b>	<b>10,315.00</b>		

**Our Saviour's Lutheran Church**  
**Annual Meeting**  
**January 25, 2015**

President Tim Morgan called the meeting to order at 11:28 a.m. There were 71 voting members in attendance.

Pastor led the congregation with an opening prayer.

Lee Nielson made a motion to accept the Agenda, seconded by Kelly Polson. Motion carried.

In Pastor Opp's annual report, he acknowledged recognition of the 15 staff members recognized on Staff Appreciation Sunday. Another event of the past year was the addition of the projection system and how it has helped with the services to address the five senses. He thanked the congregation for their upkeep of the church and mentioned that he has received several compliments from guests. Clean up day will be March 28<sup>th</sup>. In the fall there will be an opportunity for members and other interested individuals to be part of a twelve-week small group Bible study, titled Experiencing God. He thanked Elaine Jorgensen for her fifty-five years of service as organist, ending this year with her retirement. He asked the congregation to be in prayer for the church in Adair as it makes its transition to the LCMC and for the Blessman ministries in Africa. If a church is to thrive and grow it must plant new churches.

Nate Vorm made a motion to approve the 2014 minutes and committee reports, seconded by Raydene Mathisen. Motion carried.

The report of the Financial Review Committee was presented by Dan Madsen. Jean Jensen made a motion to approve the report, seconded by Toni Nelson. Motion carried.

The report of the Nominating Committee was introduced by President Tim Morgan, followed by a request to pass the ballot by unanimous ballot. Motion was made by Arch Anderson to do so, seconded by Teresa Morgan. Motion carried. Ballot included: Steve Mathisen, president; Jolene Burns, vice-president; LaDona Jergenson, secretary; Dan Madsen, treasurer; council at large members-Diana Deist, Mike Kuchel and Dan Smith for 2 year terms each; Kurt Nelson will fill Jolene's 1 year council term and Kyle Kjergaard will fill LaDona's 1 year council term.

The nominating committee for 2015 will consist of 6 voting members from the congregation. Two need to be outgoing council members. The following are the 2015 nominating committee members who will serve a one-year term: Norma Nielson and Richard Hemmingsen (outgoing council members), Shellie Madsen, Jason Smith, Kaylene Riebhoff and Jeff Albertsen. Other positions elected include LaDona Jergenson to the Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp Annual meeting in April, Richard and Janice Hemmingsen to the Annual Heartland District Conference in August, and Jim and Janet Tinker to the LCMC National Gathering in October.

There was no old business to discuss.

Under new business, Kurt Nelson, as a Building & Committee member, presented information on the proposed tuck-pointing project. A series of photos were presented on the projection system. Kurt presented the bid from the Vinton Tuck Pointing Company. The last time tuck-pointing was done was in 1996. Two questions were raised by voting members, one on the weatherproofing and another on stone replacement. A water-based silicone coating will be sprayed on the stones. Two cracked stones will be replaced as part of the bid as well as any others, if needed.

Kurt Nelson presented a motion from the Council to approve the tuck-pointing project, seconded by Ruth Kuchel. Motion carried.

Dan Madsen presented the 2015 Budget for approval. The budget was based on the 2014 figures as only 25% of the commitment cards were returned. The budget included the change of the Director of Music and Worship staff position from a salaried wage to an hourly wage.

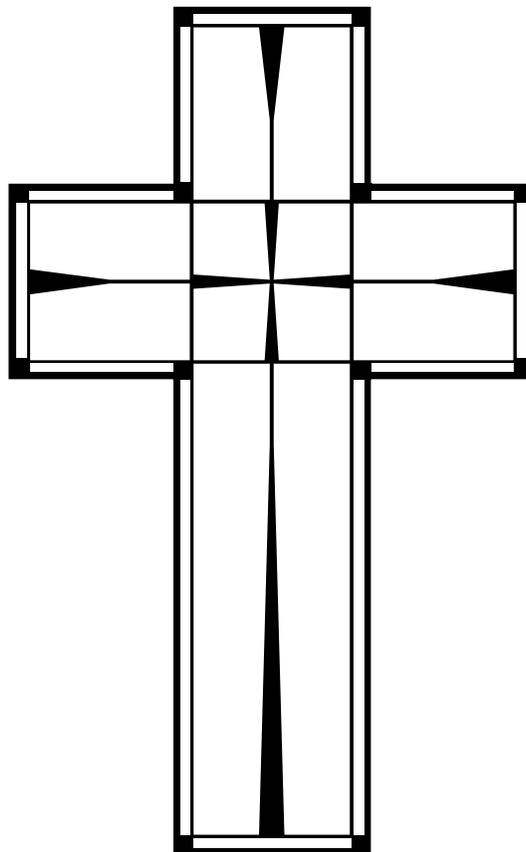
Dan Jorgensen made the motion to approve the budget as presented, seconded by Lee Nielsen. Discussion followed with a question by Lee Nielsen about the large amount of money in the special funds account.

Dan answered that the money is broken down into the allocated funds. With no further discussion the motion was passed by voice ballot.

Tim Morgan thanked the congregation for their support during his presidency and requested a motion to adjourn. Kelly Polson made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Marlene Englin. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m. and closed with Pastor Doug leading the members in the Lord's Prayer. The congregation was then invited to a soup dinner served by the Workcampers.

Respectfully submitted,

LaDona Jergenson  
(secretary pro-tem)



**OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA  
JANUARY 24, 2016**

1. Devotions and Opening Prayer – Pastor Doug Opp
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Pastor Doug's Annual Report
4. Approval of January 25, 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes and 2015 Committee Annual Reports
5. Report of Financial Review Committee and Approval of their Report
6. Elections:
  - A. Report of Nominating Committee
    1. Congregation Officers (1 year terms: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer)
    2. Council Members at Large (Terms as indicated on Ballot)
    3. 2016 Nominating Committee (Six voting members of the congregation, two of which are to be outgoing Church Council Members)
  - B. Okoboji Bible Camp Annual Meeting, Okoboji, IA (2 delegates)
  - C. LCMC Heartland District Meeting, Seward, NE, August 19-20, 2016 (2 delegates)
  - D. LCMC Annual Convention, October 2-5, 2016, Denver, CO (2 delegates)
7. Old Business
  - A.
8. New Business
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
9. Recommendation of 2016 Budget by Stewardship Committee
10. Report of Election Tellers
11. Announcements
  - A. Outgoing President's comments
  - B. Installation of all 2016 Council Members and Officers will take place on **Sunday, February 7, 2016**
12. The Lord's Prayer and Adjournment