

OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

DIRECTORY FOR 2016

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

CHOIR DIRECTORS:

Sr. Choir — Gary Keller; Accompanist - Kelly Polson

Kids Choir — Jane Weber, Julie Opp, Teresa Morgan (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 — Matt Heller

Council members — Lorri Thygesen, Dan Smith, Kaylene Riebhoff,
Mike Kuchel, Diana Deist, Jason Smith,

2016 Completed executive committee & council member terms —
Steve Mathisen, LaDona Jergenson, Mike Kuchel

COMMITTEES

Stewardship:

Dan Jorgensen
Frank Olsen
Dan Madsen
LeRoy Nielsen

Dan Smith (Council Rep.)
Nancy Olsen
Matt Heller (Council Rep.)

Worship:

Elaine Jorgensen
Judy Baker
Linda Keller
Kelly Polson

Raydene Mathisen
Jane Weber (Worship & Music Coordinator)
Diana Deist (Council Rep.)
Ruth Kuchel

Education:

Megan Kjergaard
Rachael King
Heather Toft
Kim Heller

Sara Vorm
Kaylene Riebhoff (Council Rep.)
Pam Steckler

Evangelism:

Joyce Taggart
Elayne Sinow
Joan Mortensen

Lorri Thygesen (Council Rep.)
Alice Hemmingsen
Paula Hansen

Building & Property:

Kurt Nelson
Robert Sornson
Wes Thygesen
Steve Stetzel

Mike Kuchel (Council Rep.)
Arch Andersen
Jason Smith (Council Rep.)

Nominating Committee:

Outgoing Council Members: Kurt Nelson, Kyle Kjergaard

Members at large: Brandon Toft, Lee Nielsen, Laurie Gilbert and Dan Madsen

Scholarship:

**Lisa Frederiksen
Lyle Hansen, Jr.**

Ed Jackson

Mutual Ministry:

**Todd Nelsen
Troy Hagedorn
Cindy Vokt**

**Dan Schmidt
Marlene Englin**

Wellness Committee:

**Shellie Madsen
Barb Jacobsen**

**Julie Opp
Jeanne Schwab**

Mission Ministry Team:

**Julie Opp
Diana Deist
Lee Nielsen
Curtis Derry
Dan Smith
Lisa Frederiksen**

**Barb Christensen
Jolene Burns (Council Rep.)
Norma Nielsen
Danelle Derry
Jane Weber
Nancy Sand**

Women of the Word (WOW) Officers:

Co-Chairs: Carol Albertsen & Mary Kay Lewis

Co-Secretaries: Sharlene Merk & Carol Spitler

Treasurer: Sandy Parsons

Mission Action: Donis Hansen & Janice Andersen

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ANNUAL REPORT OF PASTOR DOUG OPP

We have been blessed beyond measure once again this year, 2016! Together we have faithfully, and often times sacrificially, invested ourselves in ministry and mission opportunities the Lord has placed before us. Thank you for willingly offering your time, talents and treasures for the sake of the kingdom service we are called and equipped to do for God's glory here at OSLC, here in Audubon and throughout the world.

We have been privileged to pray together, worship together, serve together, celebrate baptisms together, and yes even mourn together as a family of faith. Most, if not all of us, have often been reminded of our need to trust in our Lord Jesus to get us through the personal and community struggles of life in this world as we prepare and await our eternal heavenly home.

Now, as you may all know, I tend to briefly revisit the previous year in this annual report and follow it with a challenge or two to remind us of our need to place our faith in the Lord for our future together and to address the challenges of the negative impact this post Christian world presents to us as we seek to serve him effectively in Christ centered ministry and mission. What I want to share with you is from my article in the October 2016 Shepherd Staff. I personally believe it is one of the most important assessments of God's church in America today and will help us to become convicted brothers and sisters in Christ if you, we, are not already there.

This early October, pastor, author and researcher, Ed Stetzer, was the keynote speaker at the Annual International LCMC Gathering in Denver, Colorado. He has recently written an article which was published in the Leadership Journal of Christianity Today titled, "Churches in America".

In this truth telling article he states, "I believe that we are clarifying what it means to be Christian in America. Most of us realize that although about three-quarters of Americans check the Christian box when filling out a survey, they are not all genuine followers of Jesus. For many, the idea of being Christian and American are one in the same. Or they claim to be Christian because they are not Jewish, or Hindu, or Muslim, or Buddhist. But the Church defines Christian differently than the culture at large, and the distinction is an important one to make."

Stetzer continues by stating, "I believe it is helpful to distinguish those who profess Christianity in three categories: Cultural, Congregational, and Convictional.

1-Cultural Christians are people who believe themselves to be Christians simply because their culture tells them they are. They are Christian by heritage. They may have religious roots in their family or may come from a people group tied to a certain religion. This group makes up around one-third of the 75% who self-identify as Christians, or about a quarter of all Americans.

2-Congregational Christians are similar to the first except that these individuals at least have some connection to congregational life. They have a home church they grew up in and perhaps where they were married. They might even visit occasionally. Here again though we would say that these people are not practicing any sort of real, vibrant faith. They are attendees. This group makes up another one-third of the 75%, or about a quarter of all Americans.

3-Convictional Christians are people who are actually living according to their faith. These are the people who would say they have met Jesus, He changed their lives, and since that time their lives have been increasingly oriented around their faith in Him. Convictional Christians make up the final third of the 75%, or about a quarter of all Americans."

Stetzer then goes on to say, "The percentage of Convictional Christians in the U.S. population has remained generally stable if we see regular church attendance as a marker of such conviction. On the other hand, mainline Protestantism has declined, while other areas within evangelical Christianity have grown.

The number of committed Christians, those who are practicing a vibrant faith, are not dying off. Research tells us that Convictional Christians are not leaving the faith. Instead, the squishy middle, as I like to call it,

is being compressed. At least part of this is because Christians now find themselves more and more on the margins in American society, not persecuted, but no longer central. As such, people are beginning to count the cost of being a Christian in today's world."

I have decided to share the results of this important research with you to encourage you to take the time for a conversation with your spouse, children, other family members, a friend or with me relating to where you find yourself within these three categories. And once you do, my question is, Do you believe there is room for growth in your faith journey? Is it reasonable to ask God to help you move in the direction of becoming a Convictional Christian if you are not one already?

Dear friends in Christ, my experience while living in large cities, in a foreign country, and in states like California and Illinois all with cultures often times hostile to the message of Christianity, they challenged me to either take a stand for Christ and live out my faith as a Christian or to compromise the gift of faith in Jesus as my Lord and Savior. It is a daily decision we must each make.

Luke 9:23 Jesus reminds us that, "If anyone would come after me, he/she must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me."

May our good and gracious God bless and guide you in His ways,

Pastor Doug

OSLC PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As time passes we all age. As I have aged, I look around this church on Sunday morning and find many members much younger than I. Do I want to turn the clock back? Definitely not!! Don't get me wrong, we need the elderly also to balance for a happy medium. It is great to see involvement with the younger, as well as the older generation and to work together side by side with all the opportunities available at OSLC.

2016 has been another rewarding year as our church family has grown again with new members. Another sign of a Christian Congregation that is willing to open the doors to our Lord's house. The Christmas Day dinner has been a huge success these past years and is very much appreciated by all who attend.

I ask that you take the time to read all the reports in this booklet so you know what has taken place in 2016 throughout OSLC. Also, for your information, the bulletin board outside of the lounge always has monthly council minutes posted of the last council meeting.

Thanks you for allowing me to serve you in this position.

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 1st and 2nd 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

In Samuel's farewell speech he says this "As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by failing to pray for you!! And I will teach you the way that's good and right! But be sure to fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you!! 1 Samuel 12:23-24

By the grace of our Lord the Prayer Ministry keeps growing --through the call on our lives to honor God by communing with our Savior and Lord!!!

God uses these avenues in our outreach:

The PRAYER PAGE in the Sunday Bulletin

Our PRAYER LINES

PRAYER SHAWL ministry

PRAYER GROUPS----IN THE CHAPEL OR IN THE ALCOVE

SOMETIMES ON THE PHONE---IN THE GROCERY STORE---WHEREVER THERE IS A NEED!!!!

Do you have a praise for answered prayers??? Share with us! God is honored as we claim His power and presence in our lives!!

REJOICE ALWAYS, PRAY CONTINUALLY, GIVE THANKS IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES; FOR THIS IS GOD'S WILL FOR YOU IN CHRIST JESUS!!! 1THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

If you are interested in being a part of this prayer ministry please ask Pastor Doug or Barb Christensen for more information. We thank the Lord for his passion for prayer!!!!!!

2016 WORKCAMP

Six youth and three adult leaders attended the weekend workcamp in Murray, Iowa June 24th-27th. Those attending were Nate Vorm, Sara Vorm, Madison Vorm, Chloe Andersen, Johanna Sauers, Logan Nielsen, Kyle Polson, David Graeve, and Tim Andersen.

There were 270 participants from ten different states who repaired and replaced sagging porches, rebuilt unsafe steps, constructed wheelchair ramps, and painted homes. The workcampers used 250 gallons of paint over the 2 ½ days and completed about \$200,000 worth of home repairs.

Murray is a small town with a big heart in the rolling prairies of southern Iowa and has a population of about 750 residents. Over 14 percent are widowed, nearly 5 percent are unemployed, and 15 percent live in poverty. The town is filled with a lot of older mobile homes and terrible streets with basically no business district other than an insurance agency and a bank. The one shining star for the community was a new Casey's General Store.

The local church community came together and raised \$20,000 to sponsor the weekend workcamp to help their residents in need. Church members assisted in some of the construction projects and provided materials and support. They also baked 180 dozen cookies that they shared with the workcampers. The local churches have also formed a group called Second Saturdays team that continues to help their residents with small repair projects the second Saturday of each month.

OSLC workcamp leaders are planning to attend another weekend workcamp in 2017. The workcamp will be located in Rockford, Ohio and will run June 23rd-26th, 2017. If you are interested in attending this workcamp, please contact Sam Graeve or Tim Andersen.

2016 MISSION MINISTRY REPORT

OSLC is a mission-focused, Christ-centered faith community. We pray for the Lord's lead as we engage this post-Christian 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 globally! 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 |
| Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry | Lutheran World Relief |
| Audubon County Jail | Gospel for Asia |
| Blessman International-South Africa Mission | Compassion International |
| June South Africa Mission Trip with Blessman International | The Copeland Family |
| 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

2016 KOINONIA REPORT

January 1, 2016 Beginning Balance.....	\$2,180.88
2016 Requests for funds.....	\$200.00
2016 Interest/Donations.....	\$.21
December 31, 2016 Balance.....	\$1,981.09

OSLC ALTAR GUILD

It has been my pleasure to serve as Altar Guild chair for over two years now. Our Altar Guild roster is full now. We have three active members on each Altar Guild team. They serve for one month during the year. 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 also kept clean and in good repair. We also help with preparation for baptism services. At the end of 2016, I will be teaching two new volunteers how to bake the communion bread. That will give us a team of four. It will be great to be able to take turns doing this wonderful ministry.

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 AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The Building and Property Committee meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month.

1. In September, part of our aging boiler system was replaced with a new system. The new system controls the downstairs social room, kitchen and elevator room. Work was done by Carroll Controls.
2. Two high efficiency air conditioning units were installed to replace old units. One in the downstairs social room and one in the downstairs kitchen.
3. New light fixtures and LED bulbs were installed in the overflow area, coat rack area and main corridor.
4. Part of the sidewalk on the north side of the church had settled over the years and had become a trip hazard. Replacement of the sidewalk was done by Twins Construction.
5. Annual Spring Clean-up Day was held on April 23rd, 2016.
6. Elevator and boiler inspections were done, and no additional work was required.
7. Two inspections per year are done to make sure our pipe organ gets thoroughly checked for problems, and only minor adjustments were needed.
8. Church council voted to open a boiler replacement fund to help us raise monies for a main boiler replacement sometime in the future.

Each year, with these larger projects come many small repairs.

We welcome members to join the Building and Property Committee in keeping the Lord's House in excellent condition, along with your continued contributions that make these upgrades and repairs possible.

Bob Sornson, Wes Thygesen, Arch Andersen, Mike Kuchel (Council Rep.),
Kurt Nelson, Jason Smith (Council Rep.) and Steve Stetzel

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee's highlights and challenges in 2016:

This year for PK- 6 we are using Sola for Sunday curriculum. Junior High is using D6. Pastor Doug taught five weeks of Holy Communion classes for the 5th grade beginning January 31st and their First Communion was March 6th. The 6th graders received acolyte instruction in the spring 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, March 20th. The kids enjoyed singing for the residents and giving them the palm branches that were used in the Children's Processional during worship.

The Sunday School year ended with the annual Celebration of Sunday School on May 1st. 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 26th. Our committee was in charge of the games for the kids. The weather was great and the children and parents had a wonderful time. Afterwards families enjoyed waffles and sausage. Due to low attendance our committee is going to discuss this further for the following year.

Vacation Bible School was held Sunday, July 17th -Wednesday, July 20th for 3 year olds - 4th grade. This year we started on Sunday after church and went until two o'clock; combining two days into one. During the week, Bible school was held in the evening. The theme was Cave Quest. We had daily lessons, music, and activities that reminded us to follow 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 refreshments and fellowship. We again invited non-OSLC members to attend and had another very successful and well run VBS with about 120 kids, helpers, and adults.

Fall 2016 started with Rally Day on August 28th during Praise in the Park. On September 11th, we presented Pre-K students with their beginner bibles and third graders were presented their NIV bibles. During that day we also had the back-pack blessing, VBS kids sang. Snacks and games followed the service.

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! It is our goal to keep the OSLC congregation informed and these children visible to them as well.

We gave each Sunday School family an Advent Calendar. The birthday party for Jesus and fun day was December 18th during the Sunday School hour with a variety of holiday activities. We took a two week Christmas break and resumed classes on January 8th, 2017.

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 6th 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 activity during the summer months or the month of December. We have had more than 25 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 2017 and upcoming challenges facing the Education Committee are:

- ~growing class sizes
- ~Keep the Compassion Child ministry going and growing with SS offering
- ~Holy Communion instruction for 5th grade offered in the Spring of 2017
- ~6th grade acolyte instruction in the Spring of 2017
- ~Prepare for VBS
- ~Recruit SS teachers, VBS leaders, and new members for the Education Committee
- ~Budget needs and requests

The Education Committee 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 2017.

Respectfully submitted,
Megan Kjergaard, Rachael King, Pam Steckler, Kim Heller,
Heather Toft, Sara Vorm, Kaylene Reibhoff (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 many 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. A Wednesday evening series entitled *Mere Christianity* was presented in January. Church Music Sunday was held on February 28th. Special music was lined up for summer Sundays. A family activity with games and brunch for the congregation was held in conjunction with the Education Committee following worship on June 26th. We assisted the Stewardship Committee on August 28th with Praise in the Park led by Pastor Doug and the Praise Band. In recognition of All Saints' Sunday votive candles were lit in memory of loved ones on November 6th, 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 and St. Patrick's Catholic churches on November 30th, guest speaker Whitney Nelson on December 7th, and Behind the Cross Praise Band on December 14th. Caroling was held on December 11th for confirmation students, their mentors and the congregation. Children's messages continue to be a part of worship on the 2nd and 4th 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 which greatly enhance our worship experience throughout the year. Behind the Cross Praise Band continues to lead worship once a month at our church, August through May. The Praise Band consists of nine 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) sings the first and third Sundays and for some special services, Sept. through May. Kids Choir (Co-Directors Jane Weber and Julie Opp and choir assistant Teresa Morgan) met through May singing the second and fourth Sundays during worship. As of last September, new Kids Choir Directors and/or assistant were needed and thus far these positions remained unfilled; therefore, Kids Choir was not able to resume this past fall. We pray that these positions can be filled in order for Kids Choir to resume soon. Many individuals provide special music through the summer and we are grateful for their willingness to share their musical gifts.

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 continued to lead a committee to oversee the gradual replacement of the paraments. Through the generosity of donors, eight sets of paraments have been replaced with the possibility of one more additional set to be completed in 2017. These beautiful parament sets are wonderful visual enhancements to our altar, pulpit and lectern.

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
Diana Deist (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.
- Hands out Christmas bags with peanuts and fruit to the children at Christmas Eve worship.

Members:

Alice Hemmingsen, Joan Mortensen, Joyce Taggart, Elayne Sinow, Paula Hansen 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 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 2016.
- Hosted the praise in the Park Worship and Potluck Meal.
- Implemented and planned the annual Consecration Sunday the 2nd 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.
- 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, Matt Heller, Dan Madsen, LeRoy Nielsen and Nancy Olsen

2016 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

President: Dan Madsen
Vice President: Jolene Burns
Secretary: Laurie Gilbert
Treasurer: Matt Heller

Council Members

Lorri Thygesen: One more year on her term.
Kaylene Riebhoff: One more year on her term.
Jason Smith: One more year on his term.
Dan Smith: Will serve another two year term.
Brandon Toft: Will serve a two year term.
Shelby Jensen: Will serve a two year term.

Nominating Committee for 2017

Outgoing council members: Steve Mathisen and Mike Kuchel.

Members at large: LaDona Jergenson, Danielle Derry, Heather Toft and Natalie Lange.

LCMC International Gathering: Minneapolis, MN, October 1st-4th, 2017: Lyle and Paula Hansen.

Heartland District Conference: August, 2017.

Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp Annual Meeting: LaDona Jergenson.

Continuing in leadership positions,

Women of the Word (WOW) Co-chairs: Carol Albertsen and Mary Kay Lewis.

Women of the Word (WOW) Co-secretaries: Carol Spitler and Sharlene Merk.

Nominating Committee Members for 2016 were:

Outgoing Council Members: Kurt Nelson and Kyle Kjergaard.

Members at large: Brandon Toft, Lee Nielsen, Laurie Gilbert and Dan Madsen.

“THE ROCK” YOUTH GROUP

Looking back on The Rock’s year the leaders realized we shared many laughs, tears, filled missions, enjoyed discussions, devotions and we are so very blessed with such wonderful youth to share our time with.

The Rock started off the year by planning to host a Dodgeball tournament in January and we encountered ice and winds that caused church and area activities to be cancelled. So we cancelled as well. We did have a beautiful evening for our trip to Winter Jam on January 21st, we took 12 youth to Winter Jam and enjoyed the bands and worship service.

In February we had a successful ‘Souper’ Bowl and Subs fundraiser. The Rock also shared a movie/pizza/devotion evening February 28th with 10 youth present. We watched “Woodlawn” together. The Rock’s March was a very busy month. March 9th we served Lent Supper, the 11th and 12th we took seven youth to the Ignite Leadership Conference in Des Moines for worship, concerts and leadership sessions of different topics. The youth really enjoyed this trip as did the leaders! March 20th the Rock put on “This Blood” re-enactment which was moving during church service and on the 27th the Rock youth prepared and served the congregation Easter breakfast. Thanks again to all those that donated egg bakes and muffins! Our April was a laid back one where we had 13 youth attend our game afternoon followed by devotions.

In May we had three youth help plant flowers for the Legion Women at the cemetery. We had scheduling conflicts with fair and ball games so we didn’t schedule anything in June but planned a July Slip-n-Slide kickball game at the church. We had 11 youth play and enjoy pizza and devotions. This was a fun new event, lots of laughs!! The Rock had a back to school bon-fire in August. We had 15 youth come eat supper that Nate and Sara Vorm provided, games, bon-fire, and devotion. Our evening was wonderful! September 18th we played a game the youth asked us to come up with. We put together a Biblical Scavenger Hunt based on the 10 Plagues. We had 10 youth participate and it was a blast!

October 9th we participated and raised money for Crop walk. October 14th-16th The Rock travelled to Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp for a mission weekend. We had 13 youth work to prepare the grounds for winter, and move wood/metal piles for recycling. The kids worked hard and we enjoyed some kayaking and grill out that evening as time to relax.

November 20th we had 13 youth for movie night where we watched Miracles from Heaven which sparked great conversation, followed by supper. We have plans to go caroling December 11th and we are planning an end of the year celebration for late December! We have had a blessed year, and have made wonderful memories, it has been an honor to share in the kids’ faith journey with them!

The Rock Leaders: Sara Slater, Nate Vorm, and Tracie Christensen

OUR SAVIOUR’S LUTHERAN WOMEN OF THE WORD (WOW)

Officers for 2016 were:

Co-Chairs were: Carol Albertsen and Mary Kay Lewis

Secretary officers: Sharlene Merk and Carol Spittler

Treasurer: Sandy Parsons

Mission Action: Donis Hansen and Janice Andersen

Committees:

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

Nominating Committee: Board Members

Our Woman 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.

On March 4th we provided the program for the World Day of Prayer hosted by the Methodist Church. April and October we did Meals on Wheels. March 16th we did the Lenten soup supper. June 8th we did the blood mobile lunch at the Parish Center. June and December we did the birthday parties at the Friendship Home. On November 8th after church services we had our annual fundraiser serving coffee and lunch raising \$1,391.00 with donations.

The officers met November 14th at 3:00 p.m. to discuss updates for the 2017 book. Carol and Mary Kay met with Pam November 30th at 9:30 a.m. for final updates. December 8th the officers met at 1:30 p.m. to assemble the new books with the church envelopes.

December 2016 Distributions of annual funds of annual benevolences went to:

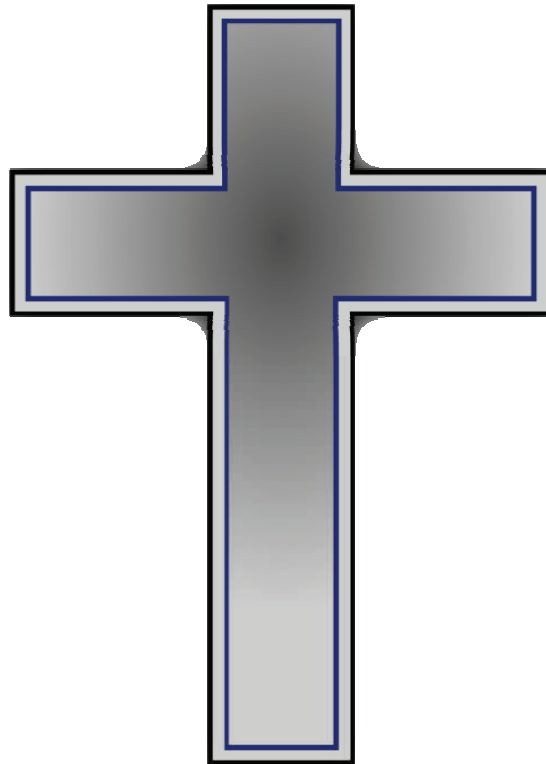
Okoboji Bible Camp Fund: \$150.00	Lutheran World Relief: \$150.00
Okoboji Camping ministries: \$150.00	Good Neighbor Center: \$150.00
Caring and Sharing: \$150.00	Friendship Home: \$150.00
Exira Care Center: \$150.00	Cass Inc.: \$150.00
Hope Ministries: \$150.00	Community Opportunities: \$150.00
New Hope: \$150.00	Family Crisis Center: \$150.00
Storybook Project: \$150.00	

We also gave \$107.00 for new Kitchen stools and \$500.00 to the Scholarship Fund.

Christmas gifts to OSLC employees:

Pastor Doug: \$90.00, Pam Steckler: \$50.00, Brad and Kylie Stroehrer: \$50.00, Jane Weber: \$50.00

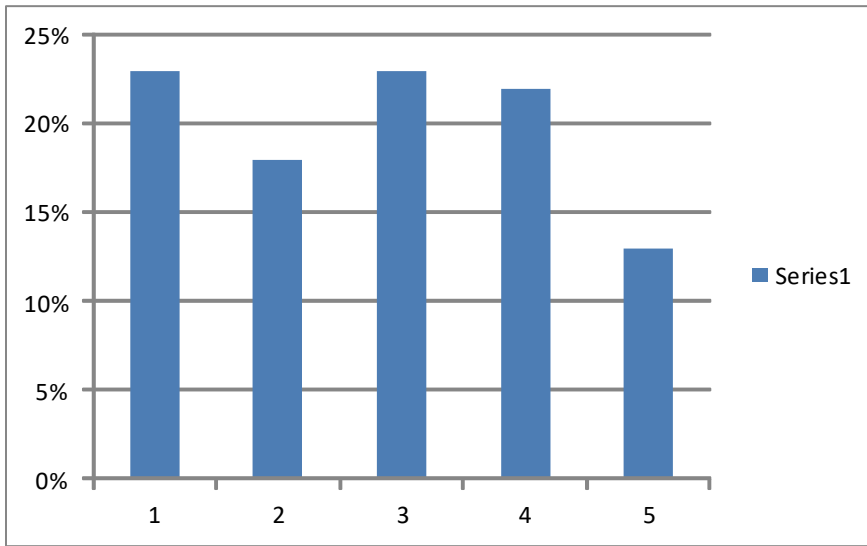
Respectfully submitted,
WOW



STATISTICAL REPORT

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Average Weekly Worship Attendance	199	223	239	249	241	231	223	216
Baptisms	2	5	7	11	10	11	10	12
Marriages	1	6	4	3	7	4	3	3
Confirmations	7	10	9	12	6	7	5	7
Funerals	10	12	21	18	13	12	15	25
New Members	2	27	7	34	20	3	29	3
Baptized Active Membership	572	580	572	588	590	603	623	632

**A DECEMBER, 2016 DEMOGRAPHIC OF OSLC
ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP TOTALING 632 BAPTIZED MEMBERS**



- 1
Ages 0-19
- 2
Ages 20-39
- 3
Ages 40-59
- 4
Ages 60-79
- 5
Ages 80 & above

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
Annual Meeting
January 24, 2016

President Steve Mathisen called the meeting to order at 11:17 a.m. There were 72 members in attendance. President Mathisen declared the presence of a quorum for the meeting.

Pastor Doug Opp led the church in opening devotions and prayer.

Kelly Polson moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Janice Hemmingsen. Motion carried.

Pastor presented his annual report. It included thanks to the outgoing council members, Women of the Word, staff and faith leaders for their past service. He presented the idea that "Perception controls behavior." We must believe our future will be better than our past or present in order for it to happen. He referred to the statistics on page 14 of the annual report to show that we are blessed with new members and baptisms, but that attendance drop-off should be a concern.

Barb Christensen moved the approval of the January 25, 2015 Annual Meeting minutes and 2015 committee reports, seconded by Chris Schmidt. Motion carried.

The report of the Financial Review Committee was presented by Tim Andersen. Tim and Nate Vorm found the report to be accurate. Kurt Nelson moved to accept the report, seconded by Raydene Mathisen. Motion carried.

Norma Nielsen presented the Nominating Committee's Report as found on page 12 of the Annual Report. It included three council positions that still have another year on their term and are not up for election.

Written ballots were distributed and President Mathisen read the ballot and asked for nominations from the floor. None were presented. Lee Nielsen moved that nominations cease and that the members cast a unanimous ballot for the nominees, seconded by Kelly Polson. Motion carried. Representatives as listed have been duly elected.

The 2016 officers and representatives are: President Steve Mathisen, Vice-President Jolene Burns, Secretary LaDona Jergenson, Treasurer Matt Heller, Council Members (each for a two-year term) Lorri Thygesen, Kaylene Riebhoff, and Jason Smith.

Nominating Committee for 2016 are the outgoing council members, Kurt Nelson and Kyle Kjergaard, members at large Brandon Toft, Lee Nielsen, Laurie Gilbert, and Dan Madsen.

Representatives to LCMC International Gathering Denver, Colorado, October 2nd-5th, are Dick and Judy Baker. Representatives to Heartland District Conference, Omaha, NE, August 2016, are Rich and Janice Hemmingsen. Representative to Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp Annual Meeting is LaDona Jergenson.

WOW Women of the Word co-chairs are Carol Albertson and Mary Kay Lewis. Co-secretaries are Carol Spitler and Sharlene Merk.

No Old Business.

No New Business

Dan Madsen, speaking on behalf of the Stewardship Committee, presented the recommendation of the 2016 budget. He stated that the church finished the 2015- year under budget, with revenues exceeding expectations and that the 2015 tuck-pointing project was fully funded and finished. The committee recommended a 2% raise across the board for staff. Building insurance costs have been increased. The committee and Council have already approved this budget to be presented to the body for approval. No questions or discussion.

President Mathisen thanked the committee for their work. Arch Anderson moved to approve the budget as presented, seconded by Ron Christensen. Motion carried.

President Mathisen expressed his thanks to everyone for a good year and announced that installation of 2016 Council Members and Officers will be on Sunday, February 7th, 2016.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Kelly Polson moved to adjourn, seconded by Judy Baker. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
LaDona Jergenson



**OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA
JANUARY 22, 2017**

1. Devotions and Opening Prayer – Pastor Doug Opp
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Pastor Doug's Annual Report
4. Approval of January 24, 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes and 2016 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. 2017 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, August 2017 (2 delegates)
 - D. LCMC Annual Convention, October 8-11, 2017, Denver, CO (2 delegates)
7. Old Business
 - A.
8. New Business
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
9. Recommendation of 2017 Budget by Stewardship Committee
10. Report of Election Tellers
11. Announcements
 - A. Outgoing President's comments
 - B. Installation of all 2017 Council Members and Officers will take place on **Sunday, January 29, 2017**
12. The Lord's Prayer and Adjournment