

THANK YOU!

2016-2017 Church Council

Jim Knees, President
Skip Baker, Vice President
Pat Marttala, Secretary
Carol Nordahl, Treasurer (non-council member)
Joe DeBlois, Member
Karen Morrow, Member
Larry Rauch, Member
Jim Townsend, Member
Kent Mathiot, Member
Charlie Smith, Member
Cliff Hamlow, Member
Steve Holm, Member
Pastor Kim Frenz, Member

The OSLC Church Council extends its deepest appreciation to all the volunteers who have helped create, organize and implement the multitude of programs, projects and ministries of Our Savior's Lutheran Church. The Council also extends a heartfelt "Thank You" to the staff of Our Savior's. Our success would not have been possible were it not for the countless hours of support you have provided.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church Staff

Pastor Kim Frenz, Pastor
Slobodan Pani, Operations Administrator
Barbara Malsbury, Administrative Assistant
Lana Lambirth, Bookkeeper
Jeff Brosy, Communications Specialist
Kim Kroeger, Director of Music
Becky Warner, Contemporary Worship Team Leader
Gregor Ralston, Organist
Marcia Fischer, Pianist
Patrick Brewer, Sound Technician
Ben Loverin, Youth Intern
Jackie Barra, Child Care Coordinator



2017

Annual Report

15751 Quarry Rd
Lake Oswego, OR 97035
503-635-4563
www.oursaviorslo.org

To the members and friends of Our Savior's Lutheran Church,

October 31, 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. It was on that date in 1517 that a little known monk named Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. Historians believe that Luther's intent was not to start a new church, but rather reform the church that existed. Others before Luther had encouraged reform, as did some of his contemporaries. But the combination of Luther's intellect, wit, and personality, along with the power of the printing press put him at the forefront of a movement that would reshape the Church and the landscape of Europe. In time, Christians started calling themselves Lutherans – a name Martin disapproved of – and the Lutheran church was born. Our Savior's Lutheran Church is part of that reform movement, seeking God's mark on our ministry, while adjusting and reforming to an ever evolving culture. The reports within this booklet highlight various aspects of our life together.

As President and Pastor it was our privilege to partner with others in leading our congregation. Serving on council was the maximum number of volunteers as outlined in our constitution. Because so many stepped up to serve we were able to more broadly delegate responsibilities. Each council member served as a ministry liaison or took charge of a particular aspect of ministry. We're especially grateful to Joe DeBlois and Jim Townsend, both of whom are completing three year terms. I (Pastor Kim) would also like to thank Jim Knees for his service to the church. Jim is completing his third year on council and his second as Congregational President. We also thank Skip Baker (Vice President) and Pat Marttala (Secretary) for their contributions. Though not a current council member, we're all extremely thankful to Carol Nordahl who has served as Church Treasurer for the past number of years. Thanks, too, to many others who served as ministry chairs, ministry members, and to those who simply see a need and fill it.

Of course our staff continues to serve our congregation and community. A number have been at Our Savior's for 15 years or more. Without their commitment and hard work we would not be able to accomplish what we do. Thank you!!

Every so often a church needs to reassess itself, its identity and mission. Approximately 18 months ago we established a Vision Committee whose task was to examine our identity and mission. We partnered with the Synod in conducting a Vitality Survey, and over the course of this past year we've been working on a new Vision Statement. At times the work was slow and tedious, but each meeting was another brick in the path. Several months ago we thought we were ready to introduce a new vision statement, but additional insights were brought to our table so we continue to meet and digest new thoughts. Though a time table hasn't been established, it is the hope of the Vision Committee to conclude its work sometime this fall, transitioning the ongoing process back to council.

Our Vision Committee also has been exploring ministry concerns, one of which is ministry with seniors. We met with Rev. David Wilder who shared the work he does with seniors at St. Luke's, Portland. With a large percent of our members being 50 years and older we're considering the possibility of hiring someone who might help us more effectively minister to this population of our membership and community.

Worship is the context that brings most of our members together. In the 2016/2017 church program year we've continued our Sunday morning, two worship styles format. At different times we've also come together for one joint congregational worship service. Additionally, we've experimented with some unique worship formats (during Lent for example) and we tried different worship styles on some of our more 'traditional holy days', e.g. Maundy Thursday.

In a time when many churches are experiencing decline in worship attendance we can say that our attendance has remained very steady since moving to Quarry Road. Indeed, this past year we even saw a slight increase in attendance, 153 in 2015 compared to 157 in 2016. To put this in a broader context, Bishop David

Royal Family KIDS

Since 2011 Our Savior's has joined forces with Community of Hope Lutheran Church to confront abuse and change lives for local foster children. 32 children, ages 7 - 11, are given an unforgettable experience through a week at Royal Family KIDS summer camp. Our church provides volunteers, financial support and in-kind items to help make camp a success. We invite you to help us create life changing moments for children of abuse. One week at camp will change a child's life and yours!

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH FOUNDATION***

Our Savior's Lutheran Church Foundation manages endowment funds, supports programs, missions and activities in furtherance of the vision of Our Savior's Lutheran Church and the growth of its community. One of the Foundation's goals is to be a force in achieving social stability in our local community and those communities supported by Our Savior's. Ministries or organizations that seek support from the Foundation may fill out a Grant Request Form.

The Foundation is committed to achieving the strongest investment performance possible within the constraints of reasonable risk guidelines. The investments are well diversified and long-term performance has been strong.

Total Assets as of March 31, 2017: \$1,099,754

Total assets include the newly accepted gift from Our Savior's Lutheran Church of \$500,000 for the OSLC Programs Fund.

Over the past twelve months the Foundation made the following distributions:

\$ 500	Goplerud Scholarship to June Pauly
\$ 1,450	Good Samaritan Ministries – Audio visual upgrade for training program
\$ 7,000	Haiti Mission – Les Anglais church roof – project yet to be implemented
\$ 2,580	Swanson Program – New program in process of being implemented

Help the Foundation continue its work – create a lasting legacy that fulfills your philanthropic wishes.

OSLC Foundation Board 2016-2017 - President Carol Nordahl, Vice President Fritz Camp, Treasurer Wayne Pederson, Secretary Lisa Sindlinger, Directors Phil Fischer, Duane Iverson, Karen Sykes.

Lutheran World Relief and Quilters

In 2016 the Lutheran World Relief "Ingathering" (collecting, procuring, assembling) project at OSLC collected 148 School kits, 56 Baby-Care kits and 29 Personal-Care kits. These welcomed gestures of good will and care were produced by Grace and Ruth Circles along with help from the Congregation. They were packaged and shipped out together with 46 Quilts for world wide distribution. While the care kits have been successful and popular with the recipients, going forward this ministry will shift its focus of involvement to making quilts for the needy. Faye Nelson and Lene Leslie are the contacts for the Quilters and Lutheran World Relief.

Good Samaritan Ministries ***

Opportunities for volunteerism are many at Good Samaritan Ministries. Peggy Gordon has volunteered one day a week as a Receptionist at the Ministry Office in Beaverton, while Lynda Wienk volunteers in several ways for the ministry. Don & Lynda Wienk as well as Ruth Baker and Bob Stowell have volunteered approximately 20 hours a week at the ministry's Thrift Store, "Sam's Attic," which funds a ministry school in Masaka, Uganda (having 1,400 students K-12 and 50 teachers). The Thrift Store donates "a half pickup load twice monthly" of clothes and other household items to the "House of Zion" mission. Cliff Hamlow and Bill Saltzman transport these items to the Woodburn mission.

The annual "Family Camp" was blessed to receive \$1,500 from Our Savior's. These funds were used to provide partial scholarships for several participants. 2017 Family Camp will be held June 30th-July 2nd at the Christian Renewal Center, Silverton, OR. See the brochure in the Narthex and slideshows before services. Good Samaritan Ministries local emphasis is to aid individuals with counseling and relationship nurturing. Contact Don or Lynda Wienk for more information or volunteering.

Letty Owings Center ***

The Letty Owings Center (LOC) is a residual treatment center in Northeast Portland where young women and their children are helped on a path free from addiction, poverty and homelessness. Our Savior's volunteers lead arts & crafts projects, take the women out to coffee and hold babies. In addition to these hands-on activities, OSLC has:

- Provided gift cards to each mom on Mother's Day.
- Provided funds and volunteers for the LOC & LOC alumni picnic held at Montevilla Park.
- Donated equipment and money to fund a Wellness Program as our Christmas gift to LOC. The room is dedicated to Carol Carpenter, our original Letty Owings volunteer.
- Welcomed the LOC clients to church services the 3rd Sunday of the month.
- Donated quilts from the Quilters, wooden cross necklaces carved by one of our members as a gift to the ladies who attend our services, crocheted baby blankets, new and gently used baby clothes and toys, new and gently used women's and children's clothing, toiletries, toys, books, and 2 couches for the Center.

There is a perpetual need for volunteers to maintain OSLC's involvement with LOC. The center continually welcomes new clients as current clients move on to transitional housing. There are always new people who need our love. Volunteer help is needed with crafts and coffee dates. It is not a big time commitment and you would only be asked occasionally. It is also a wonderful way to bond with other volunteers in our OSLC family. Please contact Karen Sykes if you would like more information

THANK YOU, OSLC, FOR ALL THAT YOU DO FOR THE LEAST OF THESE!!!

Brauer-Rieke recently reported that in 2015, 44 of 115 ELCA congregations in Oregon worship with 50 people or fewer. This compares to only 31 congregations in 2010.

Among the final words of Jesus to his followers were instructions to make disciples, baptizing and teaching them. Christian instruction is a thread woven into the fabric of our church. From Women's Circles to Shepherd Groups, from Sunday morning Pastors' Classes to Sunday school and confirmation we've been about instructing and encouraging people to grow in their faith. Topics of instruction are covered in other reports within this Annual Report.

As noted above, 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the Reformation so we've certainly delved into the root causes of the Reformation movement and the primary characters that played key roles in making it happen. As we march toward the fall we'll continue to explore Reformation history.

Each and every year 'service' within and without the church is emphasized. We continue to provide food to our community through Thanksgiving Baskets and our Food Bank. The women from the Letty Owings Center garner our love and concern, and we're privileged to have them join us in worship every month or two. For more than 5 years we have partnered with Community of Hope in Wilsonville to host a camp for children in foster care situations. Additionally, House of Zion in Woodburn, our sister church in Haiti, Good Samaritan ministries as well as other ministers of concern receive our love and support.

As President and Pastor we're excited with what God has done through our congregation. Much has happened and much will continue to happen with your support. Thanks to each member and friend of Our Savior's. United by the Spirit, and strengthened by the grace of God we look ahead to a bright future.

Peace, Joy, and Love,

Jim Knees *Kim Frenz*

Congregational President Pastor

OSLC Financial Report ***

For the eight months ending April 30, 2017	Unrestricted Revenues	\$ 266,797
	Operating Expenses	\$ 276,291
	Operating Net Loss	\$ < 9,494 >

Total Restricted and General Fund Benevolence Cash Distributions \$64,847

Non-cash distributions:

Food Pantry – thousands of pounds of food

Letty Owings and House of Zion – hundreds of pounds of clothes and household items

Lutheran World Relief – dozens of quilts and layette kits

Hope for Kidz – Over \$40,000 in sponsorships given directly to RMI from sponsors

Attendance

Average combined Sunday Attendance excluding Christmas and Easter – 157

Christmas 2016	358	Christmas 2015	415
Easter 2017	295	Easter 2016	297

EDUCATION MINISTRY

Chair ~ Fran Gray

Children's Education***

Sunday School at Our Savior's continues to gradually grow with our outstanding teacher/volunteers leading the way. Kathy Ellickson and Kathy Hood lead the K-2 graders and Judy Stafford works with kids in grades 3-5. Using the Faithweaver curriculum the children are taken through the Bible over a three year series. Studies are kept interesting and engaging with the use of music, games, stories and activities that reinforce the main objectives of the lessons. They are given take-home materials to further reinforce the subject throughout the week. The K-2 class spends time building relationships with one another and letting them know how and why Jesus loves them. The 3-5 class continues making relationships as well, but also works on needed skills like learning how to use their Bibles, the books of the Bible and using it as a reference.



Another opportunity for children at OSLC includes our 11:00 a.m. Kids' Activity Hour led by Ben Loverin and Jackie Barra. The kids are busy with videos, board games, outdoor activities in Waluga Park next door and art activities. The nursery children are also included in many activities.

Vacation Bible School was a big hit this year. The theme was "The Fruits of the Spirit" and we welcomed 20 children to the four day program. VBS offers stories, science experiments, music, games, art activities and a delicious dinner. This year, kids in the Confirmation class assisted Fran Gray and the Sunday School leaders for VBS. Lene Leslie orchestrated the meals. We are grateful to Ginny Andersen, Cathy Hood, Kathy Ellickson, and a team of volunteers for their hard work and planning.

Shepherd Groups

This past year our Shepherd Groups spent time in fellowship and study, growing and socializing together in the Christian faith. Study material included an exploration on the Book of Esther, a DVD series on Thinking Differently, and most recently a six week review on the Reformation. In the fall we'll begin a new study on Keys to Contentment. Please contact the church office if you are interested in joining a group. Appreciation is expressed to Pastor Kim and all the Shepherd Group Leaders for preparing study materials and providing guidance and leadership to their groups.

Adult Education ***

A variety of opportunities were offered to the adult members of our congregation to further their knowledge and understanding of our faith. Pastor Art led a Sunday Book Discussion Group that spent many hours exploring the pages of books by Brian McLaren and John Dominic Crossan. Pastor Kim led a Sunday morning study which focused on The Christian Creeds, and currently is leading a study on the Reformation and the Reformers.

Haiti Mission ***

In February of this year, eleven members of the Haiti Team worked tirelessly to help our Sister Church and School to begin again to rebuild from the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew which had torn their physical world apart. Together we prayed, and worshiped, and worked, and broke bread, and our team learned what true faith is among the Christians there who lost everything but their faith in our Lord. You could see the hope our trip made in their lives in the faces of the women of the church when we gave each one a beautiful apron made by volunteers of OSLC.

With the Haitians doing most of the work on their school, we put eleven classrooms back into business. We delivered an irrigation pump to Etienne, rewired the power to the church and parsonage, and gave a load of school supplies to the school. We took \$5,000 to help the Pastor finish reconstruction of the sanctuary so the roof could be completed. We purchased 75 boxes of food which were delivered during our trip. We delivered wedding dresses and clothing, electrical & plumbing supplies, and sewing supplies to the church.



Our team gives all the glory to God for our congregation that provided the funds and materials we were able to bless our Sister Church with this year. It made a huge difference in giving hope and a new beginning to the community from the incredible disaster they experienced last October. We invite you to join the team on our next trip. Next year's mission trip will take place March 2-11, 2018.

Hope for Kidz ***

This has been a year of transitions for the students in Les Anglais, Haiti and the surrounding district. The school year was interrupted due to Hurricane Matthew in October. With many blessings there were no deaths in the Hope for Kidz registry. Thanks to Etienne Francois, food for the formal feeding program in the schools was still delivered, as well as tarps to make temporary roofs for makeshift classrooms. The Pastor and his wife made sure that although classrooms had been destroyed, education continued. Thanks to the Haiti Team this year, they now have permanent roofs over the buildings being used for classrooms. This is a great change from stopping classes at midday when the hot sun was pouring down on the children. Through it all, the Hope for Kidz students have continued to receive their education and care.



Coming soon will be this year's sponsorship campaign for the Hope for Kidz Program and current sponsors will be receiving thank you letters from your wonderful children. Thank you for your support!

MISSIONS MINISTRY

The generosity of Our Savior's and its members is reflected in the seemingly unending gifts of time, talent and treasure in support of our many local, regional, and global missions. Through the efforts of the Missions Ministry team many of the organizations we support are intertwined creating mutually beneficial outcomes.

Backpack Snack Program ***



Our Savior's has been helping River Grove and Oak Creek Elementary School with its backpack snacks program since January of 2012. Children who participate in the schools' free breakfast and lunch programs can only do so on school days. To fill the gap, Our Savior's purchases healthy snacks, delivers them to schools, and they are placed in these children's backpacks every Friday to have over the weekend. We provide healthy snacks which are high in protein, vitamins, and calories. We also include snacks for the students' siblings. Thanks to the generosity of members of Our Savior's, we are currently providing healthy snacks for 75 students and siblings.

Food Pantry ***

The food pantry at OSLC is a vital mission to the needy of our community. People come to our church who are in need basic sustenance. They are given an emergency supply of food items for three breakfasts, three lunches and three dinners. Most of the food items are donations from church members. Monetary gifts are also used by the committee to purchase groceries for the pantry. Included in each food basket is a prayer for the recipients and information about our church. The volunteers with this committee stock the shelves with the donations that come in and prepare bags for quick and discrete distribution. Thanks for your support and response to the growing need of this vital community mission.

Thanksgiving Baskets***

This past Thanksgiving, 50 needy families in the Lake Oswego school district received holiday food baskets. Each basket was filled with a turkey and all the trimmings for their Thanksgiving day meal. Additional food and personal care items were added to the baskets as well. The food was donated by OSLC and our partners at River Grove Elementary School who donated proceeds from their annual food drive to OSLC. Baskets were delivered to families who were unable to pick them up at church. This ministry is a reality because of you, the members of OSLC. The families thank you all. Your generosity plants the seeds of hope.

House of Zion Ministries ***

An ELCA sponsored mission in Woodburn, OR serving over 500 families in the northern part of Marion County. Food, clothing, shelter, counseling, career training, as well as regular traditional church programs are offered. Twice a month, OSLC volunteers deliver a truck load of clothing to the House of Zion for distribution. The donated items come from OSLC members and our partners including River Grove Elementary School, Value Village, FriendsView Assisted Living in Newberg, LifeWorks of Tigard, and Sam's Attic/Good Samaritan Ministries. Additionally, OSLC supports a return to school backpack program providing backpacks, shoes, underclothing, socks, and school supplies to assure the children's return to school is successful.



Women's Bible Study ***

The women's study group is available for any woman who would like to be involved in short term studies lasting from 8 to 10 weeks. The group includes several women who are not members of Our Savior's. We choose our study based on group consensus and needs. There are generally two studies a year, one in the fall and one in the spring. This past year we studied Discernment, and did an in depth study of Hosea. All are most welcome. We enjoy treats, fellowship and intercessory prayer in our meetings.

Women's Circles ***

Once a month the women of Our Savior's gather for fellowship and Bible Studies. Grace Circle meets the second Monday of each month in the evening at various member's homes. Ruth Circle meets the third Monday of each month in the morning at Our Savior's. These groups have been together for many years but always welcome new members. Women of all ages interested in Bible studies and fellowship are welcome to join a circle. Contact Jackie Wischmeyer for information about Ruth Circle and Lene Leslie for information about Grace Circle.

PROPERTY RESOURCE MINISTRY ***

Chair ~ Dick Cronn

This summer we plan to clean and paint portions of the church exterior to protect the integrity of our building. We will be painting new directional arrows on the two driveways to eliminate entry and exit confusion. Also, we will paint the curb between our front parking lot and the grass and landscape areas. To alleviate some of the clutter in the fireside room, storage cabinets are being researched to house contributions for Letty Owings and House of Zion. The Ministry continues to explore lighting options for the sanctuary and fireside room. There have been some plumbing and drainage issues that have been repaired recently and some additional work will be done soon to remove tree roots from another pipe and install a new pressurized toilet in the single bathroom. The garden and landscape areas continue to be very well maintained and updated under the supervision of Suzie Carmichael.

Over the past year we have provided use of our facility for:

- School Bus Driver Parking
- Waluga Neighborhood Association Meetings
- Trillium Woods Homeowners Association Meetings
- Auburn Homeowners Association Meetings
- AA Meetings
- Funerals and memorial services



WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY

Chairs ~ Megan Burt and Patti Ryall

Worship and Music Ministry is continually looking for ways to enhance our worship experience. Last summer members of the congregation were invited to request their favorite hymns and explain why they had special meaning to them. A “Candle Bowl” was added allowing members the opportunity to light a candle and say a prayer. In addition to regular worship, special services like the Longest Night provide opportunities for prayer and reflection. All components of Worship and Music - Choirs, Musicians, Ushers, Lay Readers, Greeters, and Altar Guild – help create a memorable experience.

Musical Ensembles

Chancel Choir, under the direction of Kim Kroeger, and the Contemporary Worship Team, under the direction of Becky Warner, have both provided many memorable music experiences this year. Guest musicians and soloists were a welcome addition to our services. Chancel Choir and Contemporary Worship Team combined efforts to bring us *One Small Child* a Christmas musical. This May, our Chancel Choir joined with other groups to perform at the Symphonic Voices concert with The Oregon Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra.



Choir rehearsals are Wednesday evenings and all who enjoy worshipping the Lord through song are invited to join! Contact Kim Kroeger if you are interested in singing in Chancel Choir. Contemporary Worship Team rehearses on Tuesday evenings. Contact Becky Warner if you are interested in joining the Worship Team in leading the praises at the second service.

Decorating Team

Hanging banners, decorating Christmas trees, arranging flowers are all tasks handled by a dedicated group of volunteers who make sure the sanctuary is properly outfitted for the appropriate church seasons. Members of the team create new banners and other decorative items to enhance the worship experience. New volunteers are always welcome. Please contact Nancy Klein if you are interested in helping out.

Altar Guild and Communion Servers

Under the guidance of Murt Bickett, the Altar Guild oversees communion preparation and preparing the altar for the respective church seasons. Appreciation is expressed to the many quiet volunteers who make sure all is ready for worship. Please contact Murt Bickett or Pastor Kim if you are interested in serving or would like more information.

Ushers/Greeters/Lay Readers

All who come to worship are warmly welcomed by our greeters and ushers. These volunteers are key in making a good first impression on our visitors. Our lay readers add a special element to the reading of the scriptures on Sunday mornings. Thanks to all who help make our services run smoothly. If you would like to offer your services please contact the church office.

PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL WELLNESS FELLOWSHIP AND PARISH LIFE MINISTRY

Chair ~ Susan Schenk

Physical and Spiritual Wellness ***

The Physical and Spiritual Wellness team continues to support several missions. The Prayer ministry continues its weekly group prayer time and has started to provide inspirational messages to the congregation in our email newsletter. The befrienders have responded to congregational needs for transportation to church services and other activities. Heavenly Entrees are frozen meals which are continually updated and available in our kitchen for anyone in need. Home visits and communion are an integral part of our care as well. Our blood pressure check-ups are monthly and we provide health information as needed. The Dementia Care Respite Pilot Program is funded to at least the end of the year. Gentle Yoga classes will end June 7th and restart in September. Over 70 prayer shawls have been blessed and shared. Our meetings are now three times a year to coordinate our ongoing activities.

Fellowship and Parish Life ***

Fellowship is an important part of church life. Whether it is Sunday morning coffee with cookies and birthday cake, Thanksgiving Pie Fest, Advent Breakfasts, Lenten Soup Suppers, or BBQ potlucks, these special gatherings provide opportunities to get to know your fellow congregants. These special times are made possible by the generosity of many who help keep the kitchen clean, set-up for events, bake cookies and pies, prepare soup and most importantly help clean-up after events.



In addition to the many fellowship opportunities within the church walls, our members also find ways to share fellowship in our community. Some of the ways include sponsoring or participating in group volunteer activities, attending talks, movies, sporting events, and participating in local neighborhood association sponsored activities.

Intercessory Prayer Ministry “... they prayed unceasingly...” ***



Commissioned long ago by several dedicated Our Savior’s ‘prayer warriors’, the Intercessory Prayer Team (IPT) is essentially a ‘behind the scenes’ ministry.

In addition, a time of quiet meditation and prayer on Thursdays in the Sanctuary has been supported by the team. It is a most meaningful time for those in attendance.

ALL ARE WELCOME. (Currently not meeting – watch the calendar for resuming this time.)

Weekly thoughts—called “Thursday Thots” are sent to the team and others who are interested which include the Scriptures for the upcoming Sunday. Prayer continues to be an important function of our church family and that is truly a blessing.

Bernice Gustaff (for the team)