

THANK YOU!

2018-2019 Church Council

Skip Baker, President
Pat Marttala, Vice President
Ben Panning, Secretary
Carol Nordahl, Treasurer

Diane Dahlin
Marcia Fischer
Kent Mathiot
Wayne Pederson
Helen PicKell
Charles Smith
Pastor Kim Frenz

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, Facilities Manager
Barbara Malsbury, Administrative Assistant
Jeff Brosy, Communications Specialist
Kim Kroeger, Director of Music
Gregor Ralston, Organist
Marcia Fischer, Assistant to Director of Music
Patrick Brewer, Sound Technician
Ben Loverin, Youth Programs
Jackie Barra, Child Care Coordinator



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

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To the members and friends of Our Savior's,

In the pages of this document are reports from various ministries and programs of our congregation. It is my hope that you'll take a few moments to read and digest their content for they reflect our work over the past 12 months. I am grateful for all who have given so freely of their time, energy, and resources. The vast majority of those who call Our Savior's their church home are involved in ministry, many involved in 2 or more. I am also grateful for the impact our ministries have. I always take great delight and am truly humbled when I receive an email, text, letter or phone call from someone thanking us for what we've done.



While this bulletin of reports largely addresses our activity over the past year, I want to write of trends that have, are, and likely will continue to shape the church in the coming few years. While no one can accurately predict the future, we can intelligently discern cultural shifts and in doing so adjust our ministry accordingly. Below are a few trends.

First, change is happening and at a rapid pace. Some will say change has always been with us and indeed it has. Five hundred years before Jesus a Greek philosopher named Heraclitus said, "Change is the only constant in life." While change is always present, the difference today is the rapidity of that change. Seldom in history has change occurred at such a breakneck speed. This rapid change means many different things, least of which we need to be constantly adapting. I'm largely a traditionalist and I favor things done in certain ways. But many of the seminars and conferences I've attended over the past few years have encouraged me and all pastors to be open to trying to new things. That hasn't always been easy. One challenge in trying new things is that it generates criticism potentially resulting in simply maintaining status quo. Together I want to encourage us to be open-minded when it comes to adjusting ministry to meet these changes.

Second, the front door of Our Savior's is no longer the door facing Quarry Road (or the door leading to the back-parking lot). What I mean is that the first encounter many have with us is not when they physically enter our building. Technology has changed our lives forever. No longer do we use a telephone book to find a phone number, and paper maps are used only by those that venture into places where there is no internet. Many things like making a purchase, checking out a restaurant, finding directions are done online. Likewise, people will most often first check out a church by seeing what can be discovered online. This means the internet can be a vast mission field. Our Communication's Specialist, Jeff Brosy, has done an excellent job of 'advertising' our church's ministry. As we move into the future, we'll need to devote additional time and resources to that which can be known about us without stepping inside our four walls.

A third trend is that worship attendance won't be the driving force behind church involvement. Rather church involvement will drive worship attendance. I began my ordained ministry in a time where people were expected to first attend worship, second become members, and third engage in ministry. Initially I couldn't adequately articulate my thoughts on this matter but there was always something about this model that I didn't like. While exceptions exist, I can say that my general practice has been to allow people to engage in ministry even though one may not be actively involved in worship. Getting involved in a particular church ministry, attending a fun activity, engaging in a service project will be for many the initial contact one has with a church. Perhaps then attending worship happens. This means we need to expand what it means when we invite others to 'attend church.' It may be more impactful, for example, to invite someone to a choir concert rather than to a worship service.

A fourth trend is emotion will play a greater role in worship. Throughout my life I've attended numerous worship services from many different traditions. And from my experience I think it fair to say that we Lutherans are less emotionally expressive in worship than are other Christians. This is not a criticism, just an observation. Personally, I prefer worship services that are geared more to the mind, yet in reading about coming church trends I'm hearing that worship needs to engage the heart as well as the mind. While it might not always be apparent, I have to commend our Worship and Music ministry because they've discussed and planned worship services that minister to all our senses. From time to time we've included flowing water, lit candles, story sharing, different seating arrangements and various other things that engage the full person. These aren't done just for the sake of doing something different. They are done, in part, to engage our emotions.

PROPERTY RESOURCE MINISTRY

Chair ~ Dick Cronn

"Let there be Light" was the primary goal of the Property Ministry as it worked to improve the lighting in the sanctuary. A project it is still refining to address the lighting of the chancel area. The Ministry also oversaw the installation of new audio/visual equipment in the Fireside Room, including an equipment cabinet made by Patrick Brewer. Thanks to Robert Elder some reconstruction of storage closets was completed and with the help of many hands a "spring cleaning" was performed throughout the church in early March.



OSLC FINANCIAL REPORT

For the eight months ending April 30, 2019:	Unrestricted Revenues	\$ 256,613 *
	Operating Expenses	\$ 251,455
	Operating Net Surplus	\$ 5,158

Total Restricted and General Fund Benevolence Cash Distributions as of April 30, 2019: \$ 20,301

Non-cash distributions:

- Food Pantry – thousands of pounds of food
- Letty Owings and House of Zion – hundreds of pounds of clothes
- Hope for Kidz – Over \$50,000 in sponsorships given directly to RMI

**Revenues include advanced paid contributions*

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH FOUNDATION

Our Savior's Lutheran Church Foundation manages endowment funds and 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 may seek support from the Foundation by filling out a Grant Request Form.

In the past twelve months the Foundation awarded 6 grants for a total of \$28,675 including the Goplerud Scholarship to Anna Tomita, and funds from the OSLC Programs Fund to cover new sanctuary lights and new audio/visual equipment.

Total Foundation Assets as of March 31, 2019: \$1,263,268
Total assets include the OSLC Programs Fund valued at \$619,288 as of March 31, 2019.

OSLC Foundation Board 2018-2019 - President Carol Nordahl, Vice President Fritz Camp, Treasurer Wayne Pederson, Secretary Lisa Sindlinger, Directors Phil Fischer, Duane Iverson, Karen Sykes.

Letty Owings Center - Karen Sykes, Becky Brown

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 and crafts projects, take the women out to coffee and hold babies. In addition to these hands-on activities, we:

- Provided gift cards to each mom on Mother’s Day.
- Donated several new small TVs and DVD players used by the mothers and their children for in room family movie nights (considered a very special treat!)
- Donated quilts from the Quilters, new and gently used baby clothes and toys, women’s and children’s clothing, toiletries, books, and diapers.
- Held a “Bedding Drive” in April that netted a donation of 47 sheet sets and 51 towel sets for the women and children at the Center.



In addition to OSLC’s direct involvement, OSLC Foundation awarded a grant for the purchase of a sun shade for the facility’s new playground.

Royal Family KIDS - Carol Nordahl

Each year 6 to 8 OSLC volunteers give over 500 hours of their time to help provide a memorable summer camp and life changing experience for 32 foster children—children whose lives have been filled with abuse, neglect and abandonment. Why do they do it? In the words of one former camper:

“My favorite part was making friends with kids just like me. Friends that last over the year. Names you’ll never forget and moments that will be stuck in your brain forever. Royal Family KIDS Camp helped make me who I am today, and that is someone I don’t want to change.”



That is why we give of our time, our talent, and our resources to support the efforts of Royal Family KIDS!



Congratulations and God’s blessings to Pastor Louie on the 60th anniversary of his ordination!

Finally, let me say there is in some circles a trend to simplify congregational governance. Across the American landscape church attendance is declining. With fewer people doing the work many churches are simplifying their governance model so as to not overburden their people. The focus then is not so much on governance but on sharing the love of Jesus and ministering to others. In the coming years this will be an area Our Savior’s and more specifically church leadership will need to address.

In closing let me say that I love our church. I love those I partner with, both lay and staff. And I love those who call Our Savior’s their church home. Like all churches we have our challenges, but those challenges present us with opportunities to minister to others in fresh and exciting new ways. Additionally, challenges also present us with the opportunity to lean upon Him who promised to always be with us, even to the end of the age.

Gratefully yours,
Pastor Kim

Dear Members and Friends of Our Savior’s,



Over the past twelve months the Church Council has continued to work on the goals and objectives developed in January of 2018. Our primary goal was to improve and expand on programs currently in place to fulfill the mission and vision of OSLC with a focus on appealing to a multigenerational audience.

We have made major strides in fulfilling three of our six objectives: 1) Increasing publicity of church activities - we are now reaching more people through social media than we ever did through traditional advertising methods; 2) Improving the physical appearance of the church – we have added new lights in the Sanctuary, new audio/visual equipment in the Fireside Room, and held a spring cleaning of the church; and 3) Re-establish our Evangelism Ministry - initial effort included the very popular Blessing Bag program initiated by Dan Holstein.

Council decided to conduct Listening Sessions to better understand how OSLC can fulfill our mission and what our future holds. The results of these sessions will hopefully lead to development of multigenerational and intergenerational programs.

On an administrative note, with the help of an experienced Personnel Committee, Council approved an updated Employee Handbook and job descriptions. After the departure of longtime Contemporary Worship Leader, Becky Warner, the Personnel Committee was tasked with conducting a search for a replacement. The result was a recommendation to expand Kim Kroeger’s Director of Music position to include Contemporary Worship with Marcia Fischer’s role being modified to Assistant to the Director of Music. The Council has also approved an updated Emergency Procedures and Management Plan and is working on updating other policies.

Our many Ministries and Missions have done a great job this past year. My appreciation goes out to all of the volunteers who help set up for church, organize coffee hours and potlucks, distribute food to those in need, assist with office tasks, provide transportation, minister to those in Haiti, interact with residents of Letty Owings, help foster children at summer camp, teach Sunday School and VBS, and so many other activities that demonstrate our mission – “Christ’s Love in Action.”

An extra special thank you to the OSLC staff who work very hard to make our church function each day. My thanks to Council for all the time they put in working with our ministries and committees. I have found these last two years to be both challenging and rewarding. While we may have not accomplished everything I set out to do, I have faith that the new President and Council will do more.

Christ’s Love in Action,
Skip Baker
Congregation President

EDUCATION MINISTRY

Chair ~ Fran Gray

Children and Youth Education

Is it Kind? Is it Polite? Is it Safe? Is it Healthy? These words were prominent in the Sunday School room this past year. Classes using the Faithweaver curriculum are offered for children ages pre-K to 2nd grade and 3rd to 5th grade and continue to be taught by Kathy Ellickson, Cathy Hood and Judy Stafford. The younger children weave language and Christian symbols into their art and activities while the older children focus on crafts and games to underscore their Christian education. A highlight of the year was participating in the special Christmas service.



Confirmation classes this year were led by Pastor Kim and Lisa Sindlinger. We have two students preparing to be confirmed in October.

Last summer 27 young people from church and the neighborhood participated in Vacation Bible School where the focus was on “Kindness.”

Shepherd Groups

Bible study, fellowship, socializing, and growing in Christian faith are the common denominators that bring members together each week in small groups. Adults are invited to join anyone of 8 groups that meet at different times and on different days to accommodate busy schedules. This past year the studies included “*Keys to Contentment*” authored by Pastor Kim, “*Gospel of Luke*” - Life Lessons with Max Lucado, and “*Gospel in Life*” - Grace Changes Everything by Timothy Keller.

Adult Education

Now in its 6th year the Book Discussion Group continues to be a lively discussion of books dealing with current issues of the faith primarily from the ‘Emerging Church Movement.’ A dedicated group of 8 to 12 participants meets each Sunday between services. Last Fall the group read Rachel Held Evans’ book, “*Inspire*,” subtitled, “One woman’s journey back to loving the Bible.” In this book she describes growing up in a conservative church and her struggle with some of the interpretations of the Bible that didn’t square with her understanding of the world, especially when she started college. Currently the group is reading, “*The Great Spiritual Migration*,” subtitled, “How the world’s largest religion is seeking a better way to be Christian” by Brian McLaren. Over the years, the books have enabled the group to grapple with issues of the faith in an orderly and safe manner. The group is led by Pastor Art Ellickson who said, “*This group has been one of the highlights and joy of my own growth in the faith.*”



Haiti Mission - Jim Shaw



To paraphrase the Postal Service’s unofficial motto—neither earthquake, hurricane nor civil unrest will keep the Haiti team from its appointed mission. Delayed, but still determined, 11 team members leave in June to visit our sister church in Les Anglais. This year’s team will be taking tools and other assorted electrical equipment to help Pastor Bonel and his congregation continue work on repairing the church and school after the effects of hurricane Matthew in October of 2016. Sheets of tin, Bibles, Songbooks, and Food boxes have all been sent on ahead. The ladies’ tea will again provide our guests with shopping bags, hair bands, handkerchiefs and the ever popular M & M candies. The team will also present wedding dresses, clothing and other donated items our congregation has provided. It will be a time of sharing our love of the Lord and being in fellowship together.

Hope for Kidz - Patti Ryall

Patti Ryall assumed the Hope for Kidz leadership role this year. Thanks to her efforts and the generosity of many OSLC members and friends, 150 Haitian children were able to attend school. Each sponsored student receives one hot meal a day, uniforms, deworming medication, school supplies and a Christian education. In May, we held our second annual Congregational Graduation Celebration for those students who graduated from the program. Thanks to dedicated sponsors, nine of our students graduated this year. The Haiti Mission team members will meet and greet with many of the sponsored children when they visit Les Anglais in June.

House of Zion - Suzie Carmichael

For over 35 years, Pastor Polo Garcia and his wife, Marta, have heeded God’s call to serve those in need in Woodburn and North Marion County. In that time, they have provided over 50,000 people with food, clothing, shelter, counseling, career training, and traditional church programs. Our Savior’s, along with some of our other mission partners, have supported their ministry by providing clothes, school supplies, Christmas gifts, and volunteers. More than 50% of the clothing given to House of Zion by OSLC comes from Good Samaritan Ministries thrift store, Sam’s Attic. Currently House of Zion Ministries is recovering from some challenges they faced in 2017- 2018. They held a very successful 2018 Christmas event which provided food, clothing, and children’s gifts to more than 400 people. In the coming year OSLC will continue to support House of Zion maintain and grow their vital ministry.

Quilters and Lutheran World Relief - Faye Nelson, June Hensala, Lene Leslie

At one time it was known as Sewing Circle, today it is simply called Quilters. Since 1958 the ladies of Our Savior’s have gathered together in fellowship, taking colorful pieces of cloth and magically transforming them into warm, comfortable quilts. This past year 25 quilts were completed and distributed around the world through Lutheran World Relief and here in Portland to residents at Letty Owings Center. All are welcome to participate in this twice monthly fellowship opportunity. Experience with a needle and thread is not required.



MISSIONS MINISTRY

Facilitator ~ Kent Mathiot

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 - Marleigh Mathiot

Fifty students and their siblings from River Grove and Oak Creek Elementary Schools received healthy snacks in their backpacks each Friday. Begun in January, 2012 to benefit children who participate in their schools' free breakfast and lunch programs, these snacks, high in protein, vitamins and calories, help bridge the gap from Friday to Monday. Our thanks go out to the ladies of Ruth Circle for providing a major portion of the snacks and to those who support the OSLC Food Pantry.

Dementia Respite Care - Murt Bickett

Caring for a loved one full time can take its toll on the care giver. With some generous donations and a grant from the Oregon Synod we have been able to provide care givers with much needed respite from their duties. Vouchers for adult day care or in-home care are available to those who need a day off. This past year ten vouchers have been distributed. The recipients have expressed their eternal gratitude for this blessing.

Food Pantry/Thanksgiving Baskets - Faye Nelson

One of our most beneficial ministries that touches the lives of many everyday is our Food Pantry. Enough food is provided to serve 3 meals for 3 days to each member of the family making the request. Our pantry shelves are well stocked thanks to the generosity of our members and the donation of food from Oak Creek Elementary School's food drive. On an average we serve 30 to 40 people each month. Each person receiving food also receives words of support, encouragement and an invitation to church.

In 2018, boxes of food to prepare a Thanksgiving dinner were provided to 20 needy families. Each box contained a turkey and all the trimmings for their Thanksgiving Day meal.

Good Samaritan Ministries - Lynda Wienk

Good Samaritan Ministries is a large, Christian based, non-profit organization that supports a variety of charitable programs in numerous countries around the world. Their local emphasis is to aid individuals with counseling and relationship nurturing out of the Beaverton and Vancouver centers. Volunteers from OSLC spend many hours each week working at the ministry's Thrift Store, "Sam's Attic," which funds a ministry school in Masaka, Uganda that serves 1,469 students, grades K-12, and 96 teachers. Excess clothing, primarily children's sizes, is passed on to House of Zion Ministries. This past year OSLC Foundation awarded a grant of \$2,500 for the development of a Veterans Recovery Group and a grant of \$3,000 to provide scholarships for several participants at the 2019 Family Camp to be held in June.



Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible study group is an ecumenical group of 17-20 OSLC members and non-members sharing perspectives from a variety of Faiths. The group uses Audio/Visual studies, book studies and this year a member generated study on a variety of issues unique to women. This past year included an intensive study of the Psalms using the book "A Perfect Mess" as our guide. During the winter we grappled with Doubt and did a study written by Sarah Wischmeyer about the disciple Thomas, focusing on the Gospel of John. All women are welcomed into this group where we laugh together, spend time in prayer, and strive to grow in knowledge and greater intimacy with our God.

Women's Circles

The women of Our Savior's continue to gather monthly for fellowship and Bible Studies. Grace Circle meets the second Monday of each month in the evening at various member's homes and provides support to various OSLC mission activities. Ruth Circle meets the third Monday of each month in the morning at Our Savior's and continues to support the Backpack Snack program. To learn more about our Women's Circles contact Lene Leslie for Grace Circle and Joy Stevenson for Ruth Circle.

FELLOWSHIP AND PARISH LIFE MINISTRY

Fellowship events provide opportunities for our congregation and friends to become acquainted with one another and deepen friendships. These opportunities included Sunday Coffee Hour, Thanksgiving Pie Fest, Advent Breakfast, Lenten Soup Supper, Potlucks and a special farewell reception for Becky Warner. This past year we also celebrated birthdays, confirmation, holidays, anniversaries, and memorials. Deep appreciation is expressed to those who generously give of their time, energy and means to make all these gatherings happen. It is a special service to our Lord in a very generous and tangible way.



PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL WELLNESS MINISTRY

A vital role for those who need assistance to be able to participate is to be transported to and from church services and events. Our "Drivers" give generously of their time to ensure all who need rides receive them. Often the participants who receive rides may need other help as well. This ride time gives them the opportunity to share these needs enabling members of the ministry to find assistance. Another of the helpful programs is the blood pressure checks held the first Sunday each month. This gives members and friends of our congregation the opportunity to keep track of a key indicator to maintain good health.

Intercessory Prayer Ministry

Prayer is an integral part of our faith, our church, and our well-being. The Intercessory Prayer Team quietly works behind the scenes praying for our church, its ministries, and its people. Prayer Team members are available to pray with others on Sunday or as requested. Prayer continues to be an important function of our church family and that is truly a blessing.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY

Co-Chairs ~ Patti Ryall and Jeff Hook

There are many facets and subcommittees of the Worship and Music Ministry, and all are dedicated to creating a worship experience that helps our congregation engage in deep and meaningful times with God. From our choir and contemporary worship team to our decorators, ushers, greeters, lay readers and altar guild, countless volunteers work behind the scenes to make worship a memorable spiritual experience.

Music



This past year we bid a fond farewell to Contemporary Worship Team Leader Becky Warner as she relocated to California. Without missing a beat her duties were picked up by Kim Kroeger, Marcia Fischer, and Jeff Brosy. After a lengthy search we are pleased to announce that these three will continue in their expanded roles. We are grateful to all choir and worship team members for accommodating changes in rehearsal schedules as the music staff adapted to their new responsibilities. The following message from Kim Kroeger sums up the year our choirs and musicians have enjoyed.

“This year has been eventful! I continue to be richly blessed and inspired by the dedicated members of Our Savior’s. Our team brings an array of talent and gifts to our music ministry. Bell

Choir, Men’s Quartet, special music, guest soloists, small ensembles and collaboration for the Christmas and Easter Celebrations brought a variety of music and energy to our congregation. This past Christmas, we were able to include our children. A much longed for experience for all ages. The youth bring light. Thank you to Jan Jones, Sissy Hook and our seamstresses who gave time and energy to the project! I hope to include the youth more frequently in the future.

Worshiping from the heart is at the fore front as we continue the journey of service and excellence. We are exploring outreach opportunities to bring in new members to the choir and worship team. Gregor Ralston, Marcia Fischer, Jeff Brosy and Patrick Brewer have been a great support to the Music Department. It takes all of us to organize, rehearse and bring the desired music entity to OSLC. We have experienced loss, health challenges and change this season. I am looking forward and praying for a calm 2019 –2020 so that we can serve our Lord and Savior with fervor.”

Decorating Team

The artistic talent of our Decorators goes beyond hanging banners, decorating Christmas trees, and arranging flowers. Creating beautiful visual images to enhance worship is the responsibility of a dedicated group of volunteers who make sure the sanctuary is properly outfitted for the appropriate church seasons. This year we added beautiful new banners for the Trinity season—the “Praise God From Whom all Blessings Flow” banner, and colorful ribbon banners. We also honored our Veterans and Military personnel with a special pictorial banner that hung in the narthex. In the coming year we hope to create a few more banners and purchase new Altar cloths.



Altar Guild

Ever notice how the altar is always ready for the church season and communion? Under the guidance of Murt Bickett, members of the Altar Guild ensure the right color of altar cloth has been put out and that wafers, wine, and grape juice are ready for distribution. This year our Maundy Thursday communion took on special meaning as members of the congregation shared the body and blood of Christ with each other. Our thanks to Faye Nelson for the homemade, unleavened bread. Please contact Murt Bickett or Pastor Kim if you are interested in becoming a part of the Altar Guild.

Greeters/Ushers/Lay Readers

Long-time member, Alice Luetjen, continues to coordinate our army of bright-eyed, cheerful greeters who welcome all to worship. Serving as a greeter is one of the more critical assignments as they provide all who enter with their first impression of Our Savior’s. The only requirements to serve as a greeter are a firm handshake and a warm smile.

This year we added 4 new ushers, including 3 females, to our 8:45 a.m. crew. They are a welcome addition as many of our ushers are no longer able to serve. The goal is to have 16 ushers on regular rotation so that no one has to serve more than once a month on average. We are grateful to those individuals who have filled in at the last minute to ensure our services run smoothly. An usher training program is being developed and will be open to all who wish to serve in this capacity.

If you have been blessed with a good speaking voice then Jeff Hook has just the task for you. We are always looking for lay readers to deliver the lessons on Sunday morning. Those interested in being a part of our worship services may sign-up on-line on the church website under members to read the scripture lessons.

EVANGELISM MINISTRY

This past year our Evangelism Ministry was re-activated. An initial outreach project of preparing and distributing *Blessing Bags* to those in need was conceived and implemented by Dan Holstein. This popular activity provided members the opportunity to directly impact the lives of those they encounter on a daily basis.

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

Under the guidance of Council member Diane Dahlin, discussions commenced on developing a stewardship ministry. In February, people were encouraged to acknowledge the efforts of others by posting notes to the kindness board.

