Note:

In addition to the

**2019 Ministry and Committee Reports**

also see:

**2019 Operations and Finance Reports**

and the

**2020 Annual Congregational Meeting Packet**

These three documents together comprise the entire

**2019 Annual Report**
THE MISSION OF OUR SAVIOUR’S LUTHERAN CHURCH
By the power of God’s love we:
   Welcome all people into a life-giving relationship with Jesus Christ and one another.
   Grow together in faith and understanding of God’s grace.
   Equip each other to Make Christ Known in the world.

OUR VISION
To be a loving community where all people discover and grow an active faith in Jesus Christ that changes lives in the world.

CONGREGATIONAL CALL
To live beyond our walls.

God is calling the people of Our Saviour’s to take ministry out into the world together.
   In this we hope to:
   Broaden and enrich our relationships among our own members.
   Directly share ourselves, and the presence of Christ within us, with the world.
   Deepen our love and understanding to the world beyond our doors.
   Cherish Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church as our home to which we return.

Living
BEYOND
our walls
# 2019 Annual Ministry and Committee Reports

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REPORT OF THE LEAD PASTOR

Building Up the Body of Christ

When I graduated from seminary, I was given as a gift a watercolor painting with the words of Ephesians 4:11-12 written on it –

“11 The gifts that God gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.”

The watercolor painting that hangs in my office illustrates the words of Ephesians with flowing shapes and colors, almost making them leap off the canvas! It’s a beautiful work of art, but it pales in comparison to the ministries of Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church! It’s the ministries of Our Saviour’s, the people in our church, that truly make the words of Ephesians come to life!

In 2019, we experienced the “building up of the body of Christ” in exciting, inspiring and memorable ways!

- A few of our youngest church leaders (ranging in age from 4 to 11) took part in our brand-new Assistant Organist program, sitting at the organ with our Director of Music, pressing buttons… and looking adorable!
- We welcomed two seminary students from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago to learn from us, serve with us, and teach us!
- One of our own, David Petersen, graduated from seminary and was ordained as an ELCA pastor, celebrating his ordination at Our Saviour’s!
- Voting members from Our Saviour’s took part in the Metro Chicago Synod Assembly where Rev. Yehiel Curry was elected Bishop. Bishop Curry then preached at Our Saviour’s on “God’s Work. Our Hands” weekend!
- We hosted the Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for a dinner and conversation. Lutherans from all over the NW suburbs came to hear Bishop Eaton speak!
- We taught the community about caring for God’s creation when we installed nearly 300 solar panels on the roof of our church!

The building up of the body of Christ happens at Our Saviour’s every day, and in so many ways! It happens when our youth participate in mission trips or service projects. It happens when our Vacation Bible School is bursting at the seams year after year! The body of Christ is built up through the incredible Adult Education classes that are offered at Our Saviour’s. It’s built up through our music ministries, and through our ministries to those in need. The body of Christ is built up through our partnerships with organization like LSSI, Holy Family Ministries, ELCA World Hunger, church camps, campus ministries, missionaries overseas… and through YOU!

Our Saviour’s has prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers! I’m grateful each day to serve alongside some of the best! Thanks be to God for the support and leadership of the Our Saviour’s Lead Team – Pastor Gail Heidtke, Pastor Rhonda Pruitt, and Deacon Jim Valentine! Thanks be to God for the time and talents of the whole staff, for the Congregation Council and for Committees and Ministry Teams! Thanks be to God for YOU… all of you who worship and serve at Our Saviour’s, who work behind the scenes, who help to build up the body of Christ on a daily basis!

I thank God for you all!

Pastor Pete Warmanen
REPOrt of the COuncil President

Recalling 2019 and the ministry of Our Saviour’s, I am humbled to have served as Congregation Council President. Thank you to the Lead Team, the staff and Council members for their diligence and hard work, and for giving their time and talents to ensure goals and deadlines were met and new and continuing ministry priorities were accomplished. Thanks especially to the Lead Team who have offered a broad vision for Our Saviour’s. You have inspired, challenged and made us uncomfortable from time to time as we consider our role in God’s kingdom.

Our Saviour’s members and friends are the heart of who we are as a faith community, and we affirm our mission to Make Christ Known. This is no small thing. Thank you to the congregation for your support of Our Saviour’s mission and your faith in its leadership. This church thrives because its people commit themselves through regular worship and prayer, financial generosity, and service in hands-on ministry. We are learning to be evangelists (though the word may be a bit scary), sharing and proclaiming the love of Christ with others beyond our walls.

With seasoned staff and lay leadership, the Solar Team led the Solar Project, which culminated in the installation of 272 solar panels on Our Saviour’s roof. Grants were written and submitted, budgets developed, and project plans and timelines were put forth and approved. Grant money was received, OSLC members made generous donations to purchase solar panels, and the Solar Team proposed a loan from ourselves to be repaid by energy savings we will realize over several years. Our Saviour’s offers this very visible witness to the community of our commitment to the care of God’s earth.

The Music Ministry at Our Saviour’s opens hearts to meet the Holy. Thanks to our gifted musicians and directors, which form the great choirs of voices and instruments. This congregation loves to sing as well, giving us all opportunities to be part of the choir! We are thankful to the leaders of this ministry and to all who participate.

The Lead Team and the Council have developed a plan to move forward with the Affiliated Mission Community (AMC) in early 2020. AMC will focus on those who are not affiliated with a church. While we continue to work through the Metropolitan Chicago Synod grant process, we have developed a plan to move forward in early 2020. Primary leadership for the AMC will be Pastor Pete and Pastor Rhonda. AMC will begin with a “quiet phase” as pilot groups meet. Their involvement and feedback will aid in developing the program structure and a formal rollout of Our Saviour’s AMC later in the year.

The Lead Team and the Council met for an extended retreat during the fall. The group affirmed these 2020 priorities, building on last year’s emphasis on fostering community:

- Live into and grow the AMC
- (Continued) focus on Youth Ministries
- Evaluate worship, including worship styles, and consider an additional worship service.
- Launch and increase the visibility of Realm
- Design and plan for a capital campaign in 2021, focused primarily on exterior grounds and building to improve our welcome façade.
- Allocate resources for technologies to reach out to people in the community.

I have been blessed to serve this year with Council members Mark Fasick, Matt Guidera, Paula Kruty, Mark Langguth, Erin McLaughlin, Patricia McLean, Anthony Passavante, Jim Schleker, Ron Smith and Lead Pastor Pete Warmanen. Thank you for your careful consideration of issues and ideas on our bi-weekly agendas. Thank you for working together and for stepping-up and speaking out. My family’s Mondays are always full, and yet still I look forward to Monday night Council meetings. Your faith, humor, compassion and grace inspires me. To those moving off Council, thank you for your service. Know that you will be missed.

This year the Council read and discussed a book together, “Christianity for the Rest of Us”, by Diana Butler Bass. The discussions focused on what makes a church thrive as a community dedicated to following God’s leadership. We talked about our personal faith journeys and how Our Saviour’s impacts our lives. We are learning how the traditional spiritual disciplines are important ingredients for flourishing churches. I believe this intentional time of reflection made the Council stronger, and it continues to prepare us for our role in the leadership of Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church.

Respectfully submitted, Janet Boryk, Council President
REPORT OF THE CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Council Members:
Janet Boryk
Mark Fasick (outgoing)
Matt Guidera
Paula Kruty
Mark Langguth
Patricia McClean (outgoing)
Erin McLaughlin (outgoing)
Tony Passanante (outgoing)
Jim Sckleker, (outgoing)
and Rev. Pete Warmanen

January
• Approved 2019 unified budget to be presented to the congregation
• Prepared documentation to present the Solar Energy Project to the congregation
• Planned listening posts to be held prior to the Annual Meeting
• Planned for the Annual Meeting

February
• Conducted listening posts for the Solar Energy Project
• Elected Congregation Council officers for the new year
• Organized Congregation Council yearly plan for Devotions, Parish Memo articles, and Book Study

March
• Approved the revised Council Covenant
• Reviewed our progress towards the 2019 OSLC Priorities
• Discussed the process of recruiting for council committees

April
• Reviewed the Solar Energy Project Cash Flow and Repayment Plan
• Reviewed the OSLC Safety Plan and the actual evacuation
• Names presented for Nominating Committee
• Discussed the revision of CR IV Conflict Resolution/Mediation Strategy

May
• Reviewed Financial Reports and future spending for the BMIF Fund
• Approved the addition of 54 units to the Columbarium
June
- Voted to move forward with contacting insurance for a review of damages to the shingled roof
- Completed the leadership audit for the Synod with regards to the AMC
- Received the approval for the SREC’s for the Solar Energy Project
- Added Emergency Response Team and New Members Coordinator team to our Ministries

July
- Solar Energy Fundraiser Launched
- Discussed 2020 Ministry and Budget Priorities

August
- Began planning for the Fall Retreat
- Organized Congregation Council for the October Ministry Fair
- Finalized 2020 Priorities

September
- Began review of CR IV 8, 9, and 10 – Y&C/Child Abuse Policies
- Approved the revisions to CR IV Conflict Management Resolution

October
- Solar Energy Project Completed
- Fall Retreat
- Approved 2020 Priorities

November
- Nominating Committee offers four names to be presented to the congregation for approval at February 2020 annual meeting
- Resolution to approved staff year end gifts
- Modified addendum J under CR IV 29 to increase each tier of the staff year end gift beginning with the 2020 budget

December
- Initial overview of 2020 budget presented
- Voted to retain the Christmas offering in the unified budget to help balance the budget
- Annual Meeting planning for February 2020

Respectfully Submitted,
Paula Kruty, Council Secretary
Each week, our staff members and volunteers work behind the scenes to prepare for worship services. These individuals make up our Worship Coordination Team and Worship Team. In addition to weekend services, they also spend time setting up for funerals, baptisms, weddings, and other services throughout the year. Our worship services run so smoothly thanks to their planning and preparation.

As the saying goes, it takes a whole village. That is the case with our worship services as well. Every time we gather for worship we are greeted by ushers who hand us a bulletin, help us find a seat, and collect our offerings. This is coordinated by Alan and Sandy Garlock for contemporary worship and Dan Boncher for traditional worship. Every time we gather for worship we hear the Word of God proclaim by a lay reader. These readers are coordinated by Cheryl Boncher for traditional worship, and Blair and Kathie Gannegan for contemporary worship. Every time we gather for worship beautiful flowers adorn the altar area. Karen Eickemeyer coordinates these flowers each week and finds people to deliver them to the Lutheran Home Sunday afternoon. Every time we gather for worship we receive communion thanks to the work of Cheryl Boncher scheduling Communion Assistants and Communion Assistants at all worship services.

A special thanks to JoAnn Haupt and Jane Larson, our Altar Care Coordinators. Each weekend members of the Altar Care set up a meal for 600 people. They clean and press the linens – sometimes between worship services! Our candles always burn thanks to their trimming of the wicks and filling the candles with oil. The communion dishes are washed and dried after each service. We thank this group for their meticulous attention to detail and their dedication to this important ministry!

Jim Schleker and the Festival Decorating Team ensure that our church is properly decorated for each church season. From hanging banners to setting up the Christmas tree, this team is always ready to haul out the holly! In addition to decorating the Worship Space, they also set up our outdoor creches, hang lights in the courtyard area, and make our building festive during the Christmas Season.

These leaders all help coordinate the volunteers who make worship happen at Our Saviour’s. We are grateful to all our volunteers who take time out of their busy lives to share their gifts: communion assistants, assisting ministers, acolytes, ushers, lay readers, altar care members, those who help decorate, those who deliver altar flowers to the Lutheran Home! Thank you, thank you!

Worship Team Highlights for 2019:

January
• January 13 – Installation of Youth Ministry Coordinator, Tracy Katschke
• January 19 & 20 – Blended Worship for Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend
• January 26 & 27 – Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Weekend

February
• February 2 & 3 – Souper Bowl of Caring & Super Camp Weekend

March
• March 2 & 3 – Transfiguration Blended worship with 3N1 and Chancel Choir
• March 6 – Ash Wednesday and beginning of Lenten Theme: ReLENTless
• Midweek Lent Worship every Wednesday evening using Holden Evening Prayer
• March 16 & 17 – Guest preacher Rev. Doug Meyer of RefugeeOne
April
- April 13-21 Holy Week and Easter Worship Services:
  - Palm Sunday services, Table Fellowship on Maundy Thursday at 12 pm; Maundy Thursday service at 7 pm with foot washing and First Communion, Good Friday “Journey to the Cross” services at noon and 7 pm; Holy Saturday Easter Vigil at 5 pm; Easter services – at 8 am, 9:30 am and 11 am

May
- May 19 - Affirmation of Baptism Service at 2 pm

June
- June 1 & 2 – Sundae Funday Celebration
- June 23 – Vacation Bible School Worship Celebration at 11 am with the theme “Roar”

August
- Baseball and the Bible Sermon Series
- August 19 – Outdoor Worship at North School Park with Chaplain Leslie Hunger from Holy Family, Blessing of Backpacks

September
- September 7 & 8 – God’s Work. Our Hands Sunday. Guest Preacher Bishop Yehiel Curry at 11:00 am
- Worship Theme through September of Care of Creation: people, planets, weather, wildlife

October
- October 2 – Annual Blessing of Pets
- October 26 – Ordination of Our Saviour’s member Dave Petersen
- October 26 & 27 – Reformation Worship with welcoming new church members

November
- November 2 & 3 All Saint’s Day (special prayers for those members who have died the past year)
- November 16 & 17 – Dedication of 2019 Commitments with the theme of “Catch the Vision: 20/20”
- November 23 & 24 – Christ the King Worship
- November 28 – Thanksgiving Day Worship at 10 am

December
- December 1 – Advent Begins with the theme of “What Can’t Wait”
- Midweek Lent Worship every Wednesday evening using Holden Evening Prayer
- December 15 – Christmas Festival
- Planning for Christmas Eve – overflow set up, sound, bulletin production, etc.
- December 21 – Longest Night (5 pm Saturday evening service) for those experiencing Grief and Loss
- December 24 – Christmas Eve Worship (2 pm, 4 pm, 6 pm, 8:30 pm and 10:30 pm)
- December 25 – Christmas Day Worship at 10 am
- December 29-30 – Service of Lessons and Carols at 5 pm, 9 am and 11 am

In addition, Healing Worship Services were held the first Saturday of every month at 5 pm.

Worship Statistics for 2019:
- 34 infants/children were baptized
- Average Weekly Worship Attendance was 534 (compared to 539 in 2018; 568 in 2017; 501 in 2016)

Respectfully Submitted,

Matt Haider, Director of Music
Report of the Director of Music

Lord Jesus, You shall be my song as I journey; I’ll tell ev’rybody about you wherever I go: you alone are our life and our peace and our love. Lord, Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey. (ELW #808)

Music. It is something that brings together the old and the young. It is something that binds us together, despite our differences. It is something that allows our hearts to swell and spirits to soar. It is something that touches our hearts in ways words can not. Music is an integral part of the Our Saviour’s community as we journey together.

Our Saviour’s Music Ministry is committed to proclaiming the Good News through music that is uplifting, accessible, and relevant. This would not be possible without the directors and ensembles that meet to rehearse and prepare music for worship. Each week, musicians ranging from age 3 to 93, come together to rehearse music for worship. Some sing, while others ring. Some play winds, while others play brass. Old and young, beginners and pros! Our goal is the same – to make music that connects with the congregation and gives them inspiration for their journey of faith. Thank you to all the individuals who take time out of their busy lives to make the commitment to music.

Throughout 2019, we enjoyed new musical experiences at Our Saviour’s:
• Individuals of all ages have enjoyed the Assistant Organist Program that provides the opportunity to sit on the organ bench during worship and help push buttons, turn pages, and even play a few notes.
• Our Summer Soloist Series gave our instrumentalists the chance to play solo pieces at worship each weekend.
• We welcomed vocalist Viola Collins-Brown for our Reformation Worship who sang the gospel truth with the Chancel Choir and 3N1 Praise Team.
• The 2019 Christmas Festival brought together over 100 of our musicians in a concert celebrating the birth of Jesus through music.
• And the opportunity to sing your favorite hymns and songs through our various Hymn Sings before worship services.

Music is a part of every step of our journey together. May our music provide you with radiant joy. May it provide you a light during times of darkness. Above all else though, may it bring you closer to the one who is our life, our peace, and our love. Soli deo gloria!

May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song, Lord Jesus, I’ll praise you as long as I journey. (ELW #808)

Respectfully Submitted,
Matt Haider, Director of Music
Another incredibly spirit-filled year has passed in Contemporary Worship here at Our Saviour’s. Every aspect from the notes played to the words spoken have been lifted up by the worship staff and the congregants to give love to our God.

We look forward to 2019 worship at Our Saviour’s with increasingly varied styles of worship and blended options for all people. We have had Camp worships, Outside worships, Blended worships, Youth worships, VBS worships, and so many more!

The 3N1 Worship Team continues to grow. If you find yourself with a push to serve, please do not hesitate to contact one of our pastors, or myself, and make your willingness known! We are an ever changing ever fluctuating group of individuals who handle everything from altar care, ushering, communion service, music leadership, spoken word, and many other areas!

The 3N1 Worship Team Band practices every week and lead the worship service on Sunday year round. Regular members include: Kathryn Gierke, Agnes Tech, Jennifer Parker, Cari Ann Petersen, Shannon Swanson, Karen Vanlandeghen, Barb Chamberlain, Paul Falatico, Chris Wade, Andy Birner, Ed Hartman, David Lawson, and more.

We here at contemporary love to make LOTS of joyful noise to the Lord. :)

Respectfully Submitted,

T. Duncan Parker
Contemporary Worship Director
This year **Social Ministry** has been a small but mighty team, quietly doing our part to share the love and resources of God beyond this congregation. Two highlights for us – we turned SOCIAL into an acronym: **Serving Our Community In Action and Love**, just for fun! But it gave us a very short and precise mission statement for who we are. Secondly, we committed to examining every organization and resource partnership; we wanted to be intentional about including our gifts of time and energy along with our talents. We are not interested in just dispensing monetary support, but for every ministry we share gifts with we wanted to be able to identify how we are also showing up to share in the labor. We will lean even more into that intention this year. **Shannon Anderson** graciously stepped in to relieve **Debbie Klein** and shares the year in detail.

Shannon now has a more involving project to tend to (Baby Anderson will arrive around annual meeting time!) and so I will lead this small but mighty force as we go forward. This is an official **invitation to you** to join us each 3rd Monday of the month! We are doing God’s work with our hands!

**AMC - the Affiliated Mission Community is so close to launch**, we are truly in the final stages. It has been a long time coming, but despise not small beginnings (or delayed starts). God is not surprised by the time frame, and I whole heartedly trust that we are in kairos time. Ruach (the name given to the AMC) will be moving shortly. Keep praying that we can run this race with patience. We are glad to have this opportunity to work with the synod and have the opportunity to share God’s love in many formats including non-traditional models of church. We can’t wait to share with you what it means when we “worship in real time”! If you haven’t heard much or haven’t seen advertising for it…..you should know that you are not out of the loop at all! Ruach will have its first intentions to those who might not normally attend one of the 3 regular worships already scheduled. So if you have found a great worship time and format, we are not looking to change that! But we can always use the names of friends you know who say “I don’t do the regular church services because….but I love God and want to serve just like any other person of faith!” be ready to provide their contact information when Pastor Pete and I send a request out!

Finally this year will be a big development year for me as I get Ruach started. I won’t be missing in action, but I may be less visible as we move forward in God’s great plan! There will be requirements that I will have to meet for leadership and skill development, that will call for my absence, and there will be much legwork to do as Ruach takes off. I’ll still be very present and worshipping and preaching; and there may be times when that feels stretched out. Just know that I go out into this community to Make Christ Known, and honor the mission that God has given Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church! Your continued prayer and support will mean the world to me and keep me buoyed up!

Respectfully submitted,

*Rhonda Pruitt, Pastor*
MISSION PARTNERS

Each Year, 20% of our Unified Budget is dedicated to Ministries beyond our walls!
In addition to our gifts to the Metropolitan Synod/ELCA (12%)
our Social Ministry Programs and grants (5%)
and our Global Missions work (2%)
we also dedicate 1% of our budget to “mission partners.”

Distributions from the Mission Partners line is administered by the Lead Team, with the approval of the Our Saviour’s Congregation Council.

Each year we discuss and determine where this money shall be distributed. Our top priority is always to support our members who are attending seminary with the goal of rostered leadership in the ELCA. We also support camps, campus ministry, and other ministries beyond our walls which are not regularly funded by our Social Ministry or Global Missions dollars.

This year, our only seminarian, Christina Johnson, was on internship and therefore did not need any funds for classes. Consequently, in 2019 our gifts were distributed as follows:

- $2000 to Fortune Lake Bible Camp
- $2000 to Lutherdale Bible Camp
- $2000 to Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center
- $1000 to Holy Family Ministries
- $1000 to LSTC
- $1000 to LSSI
- $1000 to Lutheran Campus Ministry (St. Andrews)
- $1000 to Campus Ministry at DePaul
- $1000 to Refugee One
- $1000 to ELCA Leaders in Mission
- $500 to Reconciling Works
- $500 to RevelationGolf
- $500 to Faith in Place
- $500 to Chalice House, for detained immigrants
- $www400 for supervision lunches with MIC students, Cassie and Zach

We look forward to supporting mission partners beyond our walls in 2020 as well!

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Valentine, COO, for the Lead Team
SOCIAL MINISTRY

The mission of the Social Ministry program is to serve others with compassion, beyond our Congregation, in the name of Christ.

2019 Highlights:

• Social Ministry supported 24 social agencies in our community and in the greater Chicago area that carry out a variety of human services and address various social issues. They are: Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, the Arlington Heights Emergency Fund, Bethel New Life, Bethel Lutheran Church: Outreach Programs and Prisoner & Family Ministry, United Power for Action and Justice (UPAJ), Heart’s Place, Interfaith Community for Detained Immigrants, Faith in Place, PADS, Summer Dinner Program, WINGS (Women in Need of Growing Stronger), Shelter, Inc., Northwest Compass Food Pantry, Habitat for Humanity, Faith Community Homes, Chicago Night Ministry, JourneyCare, Journeys the Road Home, Holy Family School, Read to Learn, Dreamcatcher Foundation, St. Andrews at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Samaritan Counseling Center, and Lutheran Child and Family Services of Illinois. Our budget this year was $80,173. Each organization was grateful for the support they received and we could not have given this support without the generosity of our OSLC members.

• Throughout the year we organized six Love-in-Action opportunities. We collected food and/or personal items for Military Support, WINGS (Women In Need of Getting Stronger), Dreamcatcher Foundation, Christian Service, PADS, and Northwest Compass/Lutheran Church of the Cross.

• Each January Social Ministry organizes drivers to deliver Meals on Wheels for the Wheeling Township. This year we delivered meals on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays throughout the month. Several dedicated members donated their time to deliver meals to 8 homebound seniors.

• In April Social Ministry donated $400 to the MLK Celebration Dinner that members of Social Ministry and Our Saviour’s attended.

• In May Liz McKay attended our monthly meeting to help us learn more about the Dreamcatchers Foundation we support, as well as the issue of human trafficking.

• In June members of Lutheran Child and Family Services of Illinois presented to Social Ministry about the work they do through their Regenerations, Intact Families Recovery, and Foster Care programs, along with ways we as a ministry and congregation can support them. The most impactful moment of the evening was when Tamela shared how LCFS of Illinois helped her become free from drugs, keep her child, and get her other children back. Since then she has gone to college, earned her Master’s Degree, and she is now working to better the lives of other women on the West side of Chicago.

(continued, next page)
• In August members of Social Ministry served lunch to those in need in Douglas Park in partnership with the Chicago Night Ministry. Youth and families of OSLC donated many food items and drinks to be included with the lunch. It was a wonderful opportunity!

• For “God’s Work. Our Hands.” we organized a service event at church that was inspired by Kay Smith’s involvement with a group called New Life for Old Bags. Members of our congregation donated plastic bags and people of all ages helped us cut and tie them into “plarn” (plastic yarn) that will be used to make mats for those who are homeless. All of the “plarn” created was donated to the New Life for Old Bags group at Friendship Village in Schaumburg.

• In September members of OSLC attended the Interfaith Community for Detained Immigrants Gala and Social Ministry donated $400 to ICDI to support their work.

• In December Social Ministry organized the gift collection for the Bethel Lutheran Church Christmas Sharing Store. We collected 2 SUVs full of toys/items and $1,300 in gift cards from Aldi, Target, and Walmart, as well as purchased $678 worth of toys that were shared on December 14th, 15th, and 21st. Thank you all for your generosity!

Thank you to our dedicated Social Ministry members:
Laura Bertram, John Alan Boryk, Debbie Cline, Renee Harlock, Sharon Kollmer, David Lawson, Kelly Martin, Rhonda Pruitt, and Dan Wertz.

2020 Goals:
In 2020 we plan to continue to pursue more ways to partner in service with the community organizations we financially support and invite members of Our Saviour’s to join us in serving. We are always looking for compassionate individuals to join Social Ministry and welcome you to our meetings on the third Monday of each month at 7:30pm. Please contact Pastor Pruitt for more information.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon Andersen, Chair

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HABITAT FOR HUMANITY MINISTRY

Our Saviour’s is part of Spring of Life Partnership, a group of eight Churches in the Northwest Suburbs. Together, we completed our 16th home this past year and have begun work on our 17th. We have two volunteers from Our Saviour’s that sit on the SOL leadership board and many other members that volunteer their time as workers and lunch providers. Habitat is an outreach ministry that provides affordable housing to families. We work on Wednesdays and Saturdays and welcome anyone at least 16 years old that wants to swing a hammer, sweep a floor, put up some siding or help with landscaping. If you would like to volunteer, contact Craig Swanson or Bruce Rennecker for more information.

Respectfully submitted,
Craig Swanson, Bruce Rennecker, Chairs
Global Mission Ministry

Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has invited the ELCA “to be church for the sake of the world.” We continue to respond to that invitation with our commitments in Global Mission.

Sharing Gifts with our Mission Partners

- We continued to support our two ELCA Missionary Partners: Pastor Carrie Ballenger in Jerusalem and Pastor Kristin Engstrom in Senegal.

Advocacy and Support for International projects and issues:

- Financial support for the continuing work of Augusta Victoria hospital in Jerusalem, Lutheran schools in Palestine, Dodoma Christian Medical Center in Tanzania, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Bible Translators, and ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission.
- Support and partnership with our own Women of the ELCA Christian Service Circle preparing midwife kits, school kits etc., the Quilters preparing quilts for Lutheran World Relief and all who provided baked items for the Global Market Bake Sale. ($1804 bake sale proceeds for ELCA World Hunger/Disaster Relief).
- February - mission trip to Guatemala
- March – Observed Refugee Sunday with guest preacher and staff from Refugee One
- May - Advocacy and letter writing in support of Bread for the World global food issues. Highest number of postcards sent!
- June - Met with Sara and Victor Gaultney while they were home on leave. We support their Bible translation work with Wycliffe Bible Translators
- Summer – Three Movie Nights, raising awareness of global issues.
- August – Returning Young Adults in Global Mission participants joined in worship and Small Bite presentation
- Shipment of medical supplies to a hospital in Suriname.
- Provided support for purchase of motor bikes for pastors in Rwanda.
- Continued support for ELCA Disaster Response with offering for refugees and displaced persons and disasters worldwide. Provided opportunities for Alternative Gifts that support refugee families.
- World Hunger support, including 40 Days of Giving and devotions in Lent
- Adult Ed Small Bite sessions on World Hunger and Guatemala Mission Trip.
- Created a “Welcome Basket” for new residents at the Interfaith Community for Detained Immigrants House of Hospitality
- Joined Churches for Middle East Peace

Total support for World Hunger in 2019 was $44,637; with thanks to our youth who shared in the Souper Bowl of Caring ($1,883), the Lenten 40-days challenge which raised more than $10,000. Many thanks as well to the Fair Trade Global Market, Women of the ELCA, the P.O.W.E.R. group, and those who gave to Alternative/ELCA Good Gifts!

Support for Fair Trade

- As a member of Chicago Fair Trade, we continue to support expansion of fair trade globally and locally.
- Annual Fair Trade Global Market in November provided fair trade items directly supporting artisans and farmers in developing countries.
- Monthly sale of Equal Exchange coffee, tea, chocolate and other items with our Women of the ELCA.
Global Mission Ministry Plans for 2020

- Continuing prayer and financial support for our missionaries: Pastor Carrie Ballenger serving in Jerusalem, and Pastor Kristin Engstrom serving in Senegal. Work to increase congregation awareness of the work of our missionaries.
- February 29 - Palestinian Fair
- March - Guatemala Mission Trip will include high schoolers
- May - Bread for the World Offering of Letters
- Global Movie Nights in the summer.
- Continued efforts for ELCA World Hunger
- November - Fair Trade Global Market.
- Encourage Our Saviour’s youth to learn about ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission and consider participating as YAGMs.

Our thanks to the following who continue to share as a Global Missions Team: Marilyn Breiding, Bill Decker, Helen Grosshans, Pastor Gail Heidtke, Sheryl Kelso, Nancy Pettinger, Nancy Richardson, Carol Schleker, Nancy and Gary Stelling, Kathleen Morkert.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Morkert

PADS and Summer Supper Ministries

PADS - Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church continued its commitment, supplying Food & Shelter to the homeless in our local community. We completed our 29th year as a Saturday night site with a record-breaking attendance of 1465 guests. With the help of over 200 members of our congregation, we provided Breakfast, Lunch and a Hot Dinner (better than many restaurants), showers, laundry, a warm safe place to sleep and a friendly environment for those in need October through April. The year 2019 was challenging due to the dramatic increase in family attendance the first half of the year, at times we had up to 6 families with 20 plus children.

SUMMER SUPPERS – The Summer Supper program offers a free dinner to those in need May - Sept on 23+ nights each month, served by 30 churches and organizations. Our 7th year as a Summer Supper Site brought new challenges, which we met by increasing our commitment with our partners at St. Peter’s serving dinner for 7 summer nights at OSLC. This program has been successful due to the 80 plus members of our congregation cooking and serving a variety of themed meals. (Including the finest Swedish Meatballs!)

Special Thanks to all the volunteers who cook, clean, set up, take down, donate, counsel and assist the homeless community we serve. Thanks to all the members of our leadership team: Janice Bargamian, Deva Bendukuri, Tara Blum, Karen Christian, Brian Frank, Bruce Freier, Sheryl Hilbert, Sue Jacobson, Dave Kaiser, Summer Krones, Mike Leland, Pat Polerecky, Kristin Reinger, Diane Sindermann, Rich Sutton, Dick Trent, Chris Wade, Sheryl Wade, Nicole Wincek.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Freier & Sheryl Hilbert, PADS Coordinators
Dear friends in Christ,

Stepping out in faith can be difficult. Martin Luther did it in 1517. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America did it at the 2019 Churchwide Assembly. This church can be bold and daring because of our scriptural and Lutheran confessional understandings. Is it easy?

No. Do we always get it right? Probably not. Where we are in error, may God correct us.

The cross is our center. Faith, grace and Scripture alone are our guides. We are church. We are compelled by the gospel and our understanding that in Christ we have been set free to love and serve the neighbor. This loving and serving of our neighbor alongside courageous and faithful leaders is what offers hope to congregations.

Over the past 18 months we have made significant strides in our work on congregational vitality. This church has multiplied its efforts and leveraged its resources to enhance vitality in congregations. Our vision continues to evolve around strengthening our relationships with God, each other and the neighbors we serve. In this way we are addressing both local and global issues by being present in our own community and proactive with issues in the broader church.

This presence is made possible in significant ways through your giving of time, talents and financial resources to our work together. The success of our recent campaign, Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA, reflects the increasing support for existing and new ministries that serve our communities here at home and others around the globe. Through regular, special and legacy gifts, $250 million was given to support God’s work. Through the spiritual practice of giving, we both acknowledge receiving God’s gifts and share in God’s generosity by passing on a portion to others. Together we are doing God’s work in ways that we could not do otherwise.

As your congregation plans work for the coming year, I hope you will be both bold and daring, remembering God provides and desires abundant life for all. May you continue supporting God’s work together with a spirit of solidarity, collaboration and generosity. We are all partners in the gospel, believing in Jesus Christ crucified and risen for the life of the world.

Stepping out in faith together,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

“So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!” —2 Corinthians 5:17
SPIRITUAL GROWTH

INTRODUCTION TO CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES

The past year has been a busy and amazing time. Much has been accomplished and we are all excited about the Journeys ahead. While the details will be shared by the individual lay leaders and staff in charge, an overview is provided here. God’s peace from the ministries of Youth and Family!

Children’s Ministry: We are a team of many, lead by two! Children’s ministry is led by Cari Ann Petersen. Children’s Ministry continues to be a strong ministry, with many activities and programs aimed at helping children (and their parents) be formed in faith, and introduced to service opportunities in and out of church. In her report, Cari Ann shares the overview of the major happenings and program activities. We have worked this year to envision new opportunities for service and adventure, seeing God in each other and in the world. So for the first time in my tenure here, we are implementing family opportunities for travel, fellowship, faith, service and fun! On the immediate horizon is whirlwind trip to Memphis, TN. A short trip to get us started, we will build relationships with each other and a sister congregation and break down barriers that interfere with our ability to do good works that glorify God! Right here at home, Cari Ann and I have strategized for opportunities to energize ministries that are on going and running well, those that could use support, and those that can be started. We also are looking at any ministry that may need to be ended, or put on hibernation and returned at another time. Bottom line is we are at full speed in God’s grace, sharing faith with the youngest members of our congregation.

Youth Ministry: We are two again! Tracy Katschke joined the team last fall and hit the ground running. This is her first year in charge of calendar and programming, and I am proud of the work she has done to date. Of note in this department, our goal was to strengthen the youth and get them invested in their own faith journey. Particularly, we wanted them to see Confirmation not as another task to start and finish, but as a journey that helps them find their vocations and passions – and how God is involved. We have put an emphasis on travel and seeing God outside of ourselves. We re-introduced mission trips last year, and have tripled that number participating this year! A record number of confirmands will attend Confirmation Retreat in February and we are gearing up for the next ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis! All of this with the intention of reminding them that they are being developed in a strong community of faith right here at home, so that they will not be afraid to be God’s hands in the world. We started lots of new opportunities for service and look forward to new ways to study God’s word and talk about pertinent issues from the lense of faith! See Tracy’s report for greater detail about this last year!

One Final note: We have been so blessed to have Matt Guidera and Emily Fasick as our “right and left”. They have loved supported and consistently been present through years of transitions! This year and in the coming year, they have both taken a diminished role in the Youth ministry, because they want to make room for budding leadership and because they are deserving of a rest/sabbatical. We publicly thank you both for your tireless devotion and support of the youth ministry, and ask God to return to you 300-fold the blessing you have been to us all! We know that should we need you, you will be right there! Your ministry with this department is always welcome and much appreciated! And continue thanks to ALL of our youth leaders who are stepping in and up!

Respectfully submitted,
Rhonda Pruitt, Pastor
**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

**Sunday School:** This program continues to use the Whirl Lectionary Curriculum from Augsburg Fortress: Students gather at the beginning of Sunday school for music, updates on the mission project, and fellowship time. A short video with fun and colorful animated characters introduces the theme of each lesson each week. Learner leaflets go home with students for families to talk about the lesson at home. We have a wonderful staff of Sunday school teachers who encourage and nurture the children of Our Saviour's to grow in their faith.

As of September 2019, the **Drama Team** that was a part of the Jubilation program prior, became part of the Sunday school program instead. This team performs for the Sunday school children during the music hour periodically throughout the school year.

**Jubilation – Music and Drama Ministry:** This music and drama program teaches children to be leaders in worship and how to work, sing, act, and play in an ensemble. We have four singing choirs, a handbell choir, and a drama team (through April 2019) all for children and youth ages 3 through 12th grade.

**Vacation Bible School:** Children ages 3 years old through 6th grade came to an amazing week of travel to “Africa”, exploring their faith and having tons of fun during ROAR! Life is Wild...God is Good Vacation Bible School! 161 kids came to learn about how God is Good in every situation. When life is unfair... When life is scary... When life changes... When life is sad... and When life is good...God is Good! All week long, the VBS kids donated money for our Mission Project to help new mothers and babies in Zambia get assistance through the Operation Kid-to-Kid program. We collected approximately $650! We also collected many baby items for the Wheeling Township Food Pantry. The week culminated with an amazing, special VBS worship in which the kids performed some of the songs they learned over the week. A big thank you to all of the VBS leaders, teachers and volunteers who helped to make VBS possible!

**Trunk-or-Treat Event:** This was our ninth annual Trunk-or-Treat event and every year we change it up a little bit. We added a Pumpkin Carving Contest and a Recycled Scarecrow Contest to the event which brought out the creative side of the participants. The event was geared toward fun, fellowship and community outreach. We had well over 300 people attend this wonderful event.

**Parents and Tots Group:** This is a growing ministry that is open to the community. Parent & Tot Music Time - This program has been going for the past eight years and continues to be a success! Young children 12 months of age – Kindergarten come with a parent or caregiver to experience singing, dancing, stories, rhythmic activities, and many more fun activities. The program meets every second and fourth Thursday of each month.

**Moms’ Group:** Group activities are planned throughout the year for this group. A time to build special bonds and community. Some of the events offered have been service projects, dinner out at local restaurants, freezer meal parties, craft events, Bunco parties, and much, much more!

**Group Fellowship Events:** Fun activities are planned for parents and tots to go on together and enjoy fun and fellowship. Some activities offered are; picnics at the park, apple picking, and special events at the Morton Arboretum and the Botanic Gardens.

**Family Lenten Event:** “You’ve Been Egged” was our Lenten event this year. Both youth and adult volunteers traveled around to some of our member’s homes and hid Easter eggs telling the resurrection story. The children of the homes woke up on Easter morning and were able to hunt for their eggs.
Advent Event: 96 people were in attendance for the Gingerbread House Family Event and the “White Christmas” Sing-Along. Families got to build their gingerbread houses, watch and sing along to a cherished Christmas movie, drink some hot cocoa, and have some yummy treats!

First Communion Classes are for children in third grade who are invited to participate with our First Communion classes in March and April. We invite the children to attend a Seder meal, make a banner, receive a Bible, and do a service project to commemorate their First Communion experience. 25 kids participated with this ministry this year, and received their First Communion on Maundy Thursday.

Jr. S.A.L.T. (Service And Learning Team) is a ministry for kids that are in 3rd, 4th, or 5th grade. We invite them for various service projects throughout the year such as baking for certain events like the Global Market bake sale, and the Thanksgiving Pie Making event. We also host a Martin Luther King Jr. Service Day where the kids made fleece blankets for Project Linus, rolled bandages from clean, ripped sheets, and baked cookies for firefighters.

Intergenerational Summer Choir: A musical ministry for all ages! An amazing opportunity for children and adults to sing in an ensemble for the summer. Anyone can join! The choir sang at the Contemporary worship services once in June, July and August. This choir is perfect for people who enjoy singing but cannot make a full commitment during the year with one of our regular choir ensembles.

Camp 150: This camp was based on Psalm 150 and had a Noah’s Ark theme as well. We had 48 children come to camp to learn about praising God through music, dance, and drama. They learned how to play ukuleles, bucket drums, bells and chimes, and orff instruments. This is not to mention learning several songs, a drama skit, and a great dance! The kids also made costumes, props, and set the stage for our final production. Thank you so much to all of the awesome rotation leaders, shepherds, and parent and youth helpers who helped to make this week possible.

Activity Bags: Bags filled with activities that are designed to help younger children feel welcome and comfortable in worship. They are located in both the entrance to the worship space and the kids area in the worship space.

Wiggle Worship is a fun service for children, their parents, and anyone young at heart held at various times throughout the year. These worships include fun songs, silly dances or motions, and learning about why we do what we do in worship.

Special thanks:
Jubilation Choir Directors and Accompanists: Matt Haider, Cari Ann Petersen, Emma Leland, Helen Grosshans, and T. Duncan Parker
Jubilaté Ringers: Linda Eckles
Kids Drama Team: Kristin Zanini and Brenda Czaja
Intergenerational Summer Choir Director and Accompanist: Cari Ann Petersen & T. Duncan Parker
Vacation Bible School Director: Cari Ann Petersen
Sunday School Music Leaders: Loren Goodman, Emily Fasick and Cari Ann Petersen
Sunday School Teachers: Katie Erickson, Laura Rinkenberger, Rebecca Connelly, Erin Washebek, Amy DeLuca, Jessica Barnes, Tama Filpi, Ben Rieboldt, Lisa Bedner, Scott Russell, Brenda Czaja, Jill Lisius, Amy Biesenthal, and Stephanie Luzio
Activity Bags Coordinator: Lisa Smith and family

Respectfully submitted, Cari Ann Petersen, Children’s Ministry Coordinator
WOW! What a year 2019 was for the Youth Ministry program at Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church! There has been so much growth, laughter, blessings and smiles throughout 2019 and each day, I am continually reminded of how incredible each one of our Confirmation and Senior High teens are. Our youth are also blessed to have such an amazingly supportive congregation that not only helps them grow in their faith, but stands by every endeavor that our teens wish to do. Before I look ahead with 2020 vision to how our Youth Ministry program can continue to blossom, I want to take a look back at some of the fantastic highlights of 2019.

- **We went on a Mission Trip!** When I began my ministry at Our Saviour’s, my biggest goal was to start service-filled mission trips within the Youth Ministry program. In 2019, six youth took the chance with Pastor Rhonda and me, and during the week of July 7-12, we went to Bayou La Batre, Alabama. Simply put, our week was amazing! Our group had the chance to serve the community in a multitude of ways - from volunteering in a VBS-themed program for the children of Bayou La Batre called Kidz Club, to laying tile and painting a house that was damaged in a recent tornado to fixing up a middle school that needed repairs. All the while, our group worked alongside and got to know youth from three different states: Florida, Tennessee and North Carolina. We worked together, ate together, worshiped together, laughed as one – so much so that at the end of the week, none of us wanted to go home. The work was hot and at times, messy, but I am so proud of how everyone in our group stepped out of their comfort zones to **serve and love** as Christ did!

- **In February 2019,** 52 of our Confirmation students and 8 chaperones braved the cold, snow and ice for an **Apostles Creed themed Retreat** at Lutherdale Bible Camp in Elkhorn, Wisconsin. Our group had the chance to take a “deeper dive” into the Apostles Creed through Bible studies, discussions and worship. We also bonded with each other and other teens from the Metro Chicago area through such activities as hikes, balloon foosball, service projects and the ever popular snowball fight!

- **Our teens started building bonds with other ELCA churches within the area through acts of service and by just having fun!** Over the course of 2019, the Our Saviour’s youth joined the teens from Peace Lutheran in Lake Zurich, St. Peter United Church of Christ in Lake Zurich and Christ Lutheran in Palatine for bowling, mini golf and corn maze events, as well as walking together to bring awareness to hunger in the CROP Walk. On Sunday, September 15th, our youth took the fun to a whole new level by inviting the teens from Peace, St. Peter, Christ and St. Timothy Lutheran in Naperville for **Mess Fest**! 35 teens (and some adults, as well as the OSLC front lawn), were covered in mud, mashed potatoes, flour, chocolate syrup, whipped cream and Silly String! We laughed, smiled and battled through messy kickball and all kinds of gross battles before ending the afternoon with a water balloon fight! I am now a firm believer that nothing says “get to know your neighbor” better than whipped cream to the face!

- **I am proud to share that the OSLC Youth Ministry program is both looking within and beyond it’s walls to serve others.** Over the course of the year, our Confirmation and High School students have formed a bond with the residents at **Transitional Care** next door. Once a month, our teens visit and assist with the weekly ice cream social and Bingo games; as well as spread some cheer with great conversation. Our Youth Ministry program has also teamed up with JR S.A.L.T. for service days, where we packed 100 personal care kits for Hurricane Dorian survivors, made fleece tie blankets, baked pies, created care packages for our local firefighters and made table decorations for our neighbors at Transitional Care. In February, we also got the congregation involved for our annual “**Souper Bowl of Caring**”, where we collected money for ELCA World Hunger.
as well as did a “food collecting competition” between the three worship services! Our Confirmation class has also taken an active role in worship throughout 2019 by serving as greeters, acolytes and ushers, as well as volunteering in the nursery.

• Youth Ministry also took a chance at “thinking outside the box” when it came to raising funds and awareness for our mission trips. In February, the six youth that went to Bayou La Batre came up with the “Mardi Gras Pancake Dinner.” On Fat Tuesday, our teens served pancakes, sausage, bacon and King Cake cupcakes to the congregation to raise funds for and spread the word about their upcoming mission trip! We had a wonderful and festive turnout that raised nearly $1,000 for the trip and the evening concluded with Pastor Pete “blowing up” palms for Ash Wednesday! In November, our teens teamed up with the Children’s and Adult ministries to once again bring awareness and raise funds for their mission trip with a Thanksgiving Pie Auction and Fellowship! The teens worked hard serving pie and talking about their 2020 mission trip to Niagara Falls – all while having fun and spreading laughter! I am proud to announce that our groups raised nearly $2,000 for the upcoming adventures of all three ministries!

• Throughout the course of 2019, I have been so grateful for the leadership and wisdom of so many people who have stepped up to help with the Youth Ministry program. Whether it has been to lead as a Confirmation small group leader, assist with Senior High, chaperone a retreat or help with a fundraiser, please know that your time and talents are so appreciated! I would like to thank the following people for their incredible vision and leadership throughout 2019: Lindsey Campion, Kim Caro, Shannon Cismoski, Colleen Engle, Kate Erickson, Linda Falotico, Mark Fasick, Emily Fasick, Kurtis Frank, Steve Goodman, Jennifer Grandberry, Matt Guidera, Ed Hartman, Laura Hessling, Sascha Illy, Jen Johnson, Tyler Johnson, Marnie Kapuscinski, Amy Kuehl, Beth Ligenza, Chris Ligenza, Cary Lisota, Margit McKee, Jenna Myrczik, Dionne Pignataro, Amy Polenzani, Jennifer Romano, Melissa Sang, Nicole Schneider, Karen VanLandegehem & Michael Weaver. I would also like to give a special “thank you” to Star Smith for keeping our Confirmation records up to speed! From the bottom of my heart, thank you for all that you do!

2019 was an incredible year for the Our Saviour’s Youth Ministry and I’m excited for what the new year has to bring! Here’s a sneak peek of the wonderful happenings that are on the way in 2020:

• We’re going on another Mission Trip! During the week of July 5–10, twenty one teens and chaperones will be embarking on a week-long mission trip to Niagara Falls, New York! We will have the opportunity to once again meet and work alongside teens and chaperones from other churches nationwide, as well as rebuild homes and schools and get to know the Niagara Falls community!

• The teens from OSLC will have more chances throughout 2020 to bond with the teens from Peace Lutheran, Christ Lutheran, St. Peter UCC and St. Timothy Lutheran – as well as meet teens from and serve with other ELCA churches in the area. Fun events such as lock-ins, mission projects days and bowling events are heading to the calendar!

• I am also looking for more opportunities for our youth to grow in faith and service both within and outside of our walls. 2019 certainly was a year of growth and I know that 2020 will bring not only continued growth for our program, but also endless possibilities! It will be a wonderful year, indeed!

Respectfully Submitted,

Tracy Katschke, Youth Ministry Coordinator
ADULT EDUCATION REPORT

The Adult Education Ministry’s top three priorities for 2019 were as follows:

• Continuing to offer educational programs – spiritual and Bible based classes to increase knowledge
• Publicizing educational offerings to the internal and external communities.
• Coordinating offerings to avoid duplication and redundancy.

In 2019 there were thirty-six Classes and twenty-nine Small Bites with instruction by 43+ Adult Education volunteer teachers, some who taught several classes. Over 1,899 people attended Adult Ed offerings in 2019: 593 persons attended the Classes and 1,306 attended the Small Bites! This was a 21% increase over 2018.

Members of the Team participated in the OSLC Ministry Fair where a wide variety of ministries were explained.

Online student registration continues to increase in use with various problems as students try to navigate the system. Neil Scheufler, registrar, is continuing to work on transitioning attendance history of classes.

The Team worked with the POWER Leadership Team to present a seven week series on several social justice issues and how people of faith can demonstrate their faith in the world. There was also much interest in the discussion of the book “So You Want to Talk About Race” when over thirty-five persons bought the book to participate in the class facilitated by Mary Beth Canty. The Green Team has also been active in presenting information regarding their activities.

Steve Bishop continues to do an excellent job in tabulating the evaluations of the classes. There are many positive statements from the attendees and the classes are highly valued. The Team considers these suggestions in their planning for Fall, Winter, and Spring classes. Ann Wagner’s work in producing the brochures and other publicity is very much appreciated!

We continue to explore ways to publicize the offerings to both the parish community and the community at large through submissions to community publications and postings. Suggestions for class offerings are always welcomed as well as are volunteers who would be interested in assisting in instruction.

The top three Priorities for 2020 include:

• To continue to grow our educational programs – spiritual and Bible based classes to increase knowledge of Our Saviour’s members.
• To improve the means of reaching our members and the community; especially the registration process.
• To continue to work with other ministries to increase participation and avoid redundancy.

Thanks to the enthusiastic and hard-working Adult Education Team who served in 2019: Steve Bishop, Yeulanda Brown-Degala, Mary Beth Canty, Jodie Draut, Char Heeg, Linda Scheufler, Neil Scheufler, Pastor Pete Warmanen, and Chair Liz McKay.

Respectfully Submitted,

Liz McKay, Chair
**MEN’S BIBLE STUDY**

The Men’s Bible Study Ministry meets the second and fourth Saturdays of each month at 7:30-9:00 am (September through May). Each session includes Bible readings, group discussion, and short 30 minute (DVD) video presentations. Our Bible readings this year were centered on the Gospel of Mark.

Our DVD presentations continued with the third year of a new 3 year video course “Reading Biblical Literature, Genesis to Revelation” presented by Prof. Craig R. Koester, Ph.D. Professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN. Prof. Koester is known for interweaving the study of biblical texts with their impact on art, literature, and music.

In 2020 we will be discussing/studying the Gospel of Matthew. In addition, our video study will be taken from three “Great Courses” taught by Prof. Bart D. Ehrman, the James A. Gray Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Dept. of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He has received numerous teaching awards for Excellence in Teaching. The three courses include:

- *The History of the Bible: The Making of the New Testament Canon*
- *After the New Testament: The Writings of the Apostolic Fathers*
- *Lost Christianities: Christian Scriptures and the Battles over Authentication*

Our Goals for the coming year: 1) start a “Member, Recruit a Member Program”; 2) schedule and set up a promotional Sunday morning “Small Bite Class” in adult bible study; and 3) make use of OSLC’s Website and Facebook Page for promotional activities.

All participants will get a chance to ponder, reflect, offer thoughts and questions, and learn together, renewing our understanding and experience of Christian community within our wider world.

All men are welcome – no experience necessary. These occasions are an opportunity to make new friendships and renew old ones. For more information, please contact Dan Wertz at 847-398-7755 or dan.wertz@comcast.net.

**Acknowledgements:** Thank you to 2019’s participants: Steve Bishop, Tom Coombs, Mike Dockery, Paul Keipert, Dick Leverenz, Chuck Maurice, Mike McCandless, Bud Nylen, Rick Riedl, and Dale Ziemer.

Respectfully submitted,

*Dan Wertz, Men’s Bible Study Coordinator*

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**NURSERY REPORT**

The nursery is staffed each week by Barb Vasquez, paid nursery worker and a rotating group of teen and adult volunteers who provide nurturing care during the Sunday worship services, Sunday School Hour, New Member classes and occasional evening events. We continue to see growth in attendance and volunteer interest. Thank you to all who have volunteered or donated toys through out the year!

Respectfully submitted,

*Barb Vasquez, Nursery Staff*
BUILDING COMMUNITY

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Small groups, fellowship events, & specialized ministries of the church that foster an atmosphere of welcome and inclusion for all are included under the umbrella: “Congregational Life.”

In addition to the reports from our New Member Coordinator, Women of the ELCA leaders, and the Green Team, here are few other Congregational Life highlights from this past year:

• Our Reception Team continues to provide wonderful meals for funerals, Sunday morning events, concerts. There were lots of funeral receptions in 2019. The highlight of the Team’s year was the lovely banquet they pulled off for Bishop Eaton in September! Many thanks to our coordinators: Kathy Bieber, Virginia Blank, Judy Platt, Jeannie Weber and over two-dozen other women and men who take such care to make these events memorable, especially on such short notice.

• Again, this year, we hosted congregational Soup Suppers before each of the mid-week Lenten services. Various groups of the church coordinated four of the five weeks. Many thanks to Adult Ministries, Youth Ministry, Stephen Ministry, and the Music Ministries for their delicious soups and breads! Thank you to the coordinators of the meals: Alison Wathen, Lucy Harrison, Amy Belford and Lisa Bedner who assisted the various groups and did shopping, clean up, and some soup preparation, too.

• Under the leadership of Wes Nebel, our Military Support Ministry Team continues to support those members and family friends who are veterans or serve in our military. This past year we did a mailing of packages to those serving overseas and continued to mail quarterly cards/devotions to all those on our prayer list. We also took an Easter trip with baskets to veterans at Hines Hospital. The highlight of our year was the Memorial Weekend Event recognizing – and presenting a medal – to all the living Veterans of Our Saviour’s.

• Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship could really need some additional helpers! We are extremely grateful to Nancy Stipp, who comes at 8am and makes the coffee on most Sundays, and Kathy Beiber, who comes at noon on most Sundays to do clean up. Thank you to both Kathy and Nancy, and the few other folks who occasionally help with set up, clean up, and hosting. And thanks to members of the Green Team for running the dishwasher when we use ceramic cups. But they can’t do it all the time and we could really use regular hosts from 10:00 -11:00am. So please volunteer on the Website sign up page.

• Our Mixed Bowling League continues monthly on Saturday night. The league meets on the third Saturday of every month, September through May, and continues to be a really great time for bowling and fellowship. We thank King Pin Rick Nelson, who coordinates this group. Interested in joining the league or subbing? Contact Rick!

• Our Bridge Group continues to provide regular fellowship and fun monthly on a Friday night. Kevin Nuccio leads this group. Want to join the fun and learn to play bridge? Contact Kevin!

Respectfully submitted, Jim Valentine, COO
2019 goals and accomplishments:

- Helped advocate and plan with OSLC Solar Team to install solar panels
- Coordinated and hosted an indoor farmers market without active Faith in Place involvement
- Continued annual tradition of marching with other OSLC and Interfaith Green Partners members to collect recycling and garbage during the Arlington Heights July 4th parade
- Expanded sustainable coffee hour to the first and third Sunday each month by using ceramic coffee cups
- Coordinated zero waste food event following OSLC “outdoor” worship
- Presented “Small Bites” Adult Ed class related to OSLC recycling efforts
- Began butterfly/pollinator garden using native plants
- Designed and purchased new Green Team t-shirts and reusable shopping bags

2020 goals:

- Expand recycling efforts at OSLC to include collection area for white Styrofoam
- Continue to coordinate and host an indoor farmers market without active Faith in Place involvement
- Coordinate and plan Earth Sunday activities to commemorate 50th anniversary of Earth Day
- Complete butterfly/pollinator garden using native plants
- Work with OSLC Landscaping Team to establish a composting program and install rain barrels to collect storm water run off and decrease water usage around church property
- Work with Faith in Place to coordinate OSLC and Interfaith Green Partners involvement in Arlington Heights July 4th parade
- Work with other OSLC ministries/groups to promote more zero waste food events
- Work with OSLC Youth Coordinator to promote more youth involvement

Active Green Team members in 2019:
Deb Ballardini, Kurtis Frank, Kathy Hendrickson, Chuck Maurice, Tammie Maurice, Carol Melby, Christopher Melby, Jan Smith, Karen Souden, Jim Valentine, Sheila Wertz, Ken Westlake

Respectfully submitted,

Kurtis Frank, Chair
WELCOME AND NEW MEMBER MINISTRY

A total of 43 confirmed adults and 8 baptized children were received into membership through the New Member Orientation sessions in 2019.

Highlights from 2019:

• Each New Member Orientation Session consisted of 1 Class Session facilitated by Pastor Pete. Condensing the classes from 2 shorter sessions to 1 longer session reached the needs of those in the class.

• The New Members were commissioned in the spring and fall, and welcomed by a cake and coffee reception. Each family was presented with a Certificate of Membership signed by Pastor Pete and the Church Council President, and presented with a small gift as a remembrance of the day they joined Our Saviour’s.

• A Church-wide Ministry Fair was held in October to showcase over 100 ministries at Our Saviour’s.

Thanks to Barb Vasquez for providing childcare during the New Member class sessions. Special thanks to Kathy Bieber for her assistance with picking up and serving food for the classes and receptions. Thanks to the Reception Team for hosting the new member welcome receptions.

Thanks to all who have served on the Welcome Team throughout the year.

Goals for 2020:

• Continue to work to make hospitality at Our Saviour’s a priority and concentrate on welcoming all families and children.

• Schedule Orientation Sessions when interest is high throughout the year.

• Motivate new members to stay involved by worshipping, serving and giving.

• Host a new member reunion.

• Plan a church-wide Ministry Fair.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Rehm, Welcome Ministry and New Member Coordinator
WELCA had a year of wonderful activity.

We have six Bible Study/Circles that meet the second week of the month September through May. All women of all ages are invited to share in Bible study and grow in small group fellowship.

We also have a book club called Page Turners that reads current books and discusses them with a Christian perspective. They meet once a month.

We have a Christian Service group that provides health kits, school kits, and midwife kits domestically and internationally in partnership with Lutheran World Relief. Many of these kits also go to disaster areas as needed. This group meets once a month.

WELCA also sells fair trade coffee, tea, and chocolate products September through May. We support farmers by providing them with a living wage.

We also have a Quilting group that meets once a week to provide quilts for Lutheran World Relief. The quilts go around the world wherever there is a need.

WELCA showed two films open to the public. In January we viewed the film “Believer” and sent a free will offering to the Laramie Project to support LGBTQ communities. In February we viewed the Mr. Rogers documentary and sent a donation to the Fred Rogers Foundation.

We sponsored two summer social events. Open to all women.

WELCA provided donations to 6 charities, a thank offering scholarship fund, and offering to the WELCA national organization.

We ended with our popular luncheon. Our theme was “Christmas in Paradise”. A large group came to hear dueling pianos play, sing high energy Christmas music, and eat a delicious catered Italian meal. Gift cards and money were collected for Lutheran Social Services foster care programs at the luncheon.

WELCA continues to encourage women of all ages in fellowship, Bible study and service.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Falotico, WELCA President
Stephen Ministry, an aspect of ongoing pastoral care, empowers lay people in our church to be compassionate listeners for individuals in crisis or experiencing significant loss. Through intensive training, continuing education, and peer supervision, Stephen Ministers provide confidential, one-on-one Christian care to members of the congregation and to the community at large. Our top mission objectives this past year included working collegially with other Stephen Ministry churches in the area and building strength within our own group through continuing education and fellowship. We are continuing our recruiting campaign to select individuals to be trained as our newest Stephen Ministers. The sessions will begin in the Fall of 2020.

In 2019:

- Stephen Ministers collectively spent about 338 hours with their care receivers, accompanying them on their journey toward emotional and spiritual healing, with God’s help. Six referrals were made this year from various sources.
- Through twice-monthly (once in both July and August) continuing education sessions, small group supervision, spiritual enrichment and fellowship, Stephen Ministers continue to grow in faith, develop their listening skills, and offer encouragement to one another.
- OSLC has been a Stephen Ministry congregation for over 31 years.
- Currently active Stephen Ministers include the following: Suzanne Cech, Alan and Sandy Garlock, Barbara McCandless, Joanne Monaghan, Janis Nebel, Sonja Pearson, Linda Scheufler, and Ron Smith. Sue Katte and Referrals Coordinator Karen Steil continue to serve as Stephen Leaders, as well as Stephen Ministers.
- We would also like to recognize former Stephen Ministers Robin Jurkowski and Kathy Vaclavek for their years of partnership and contributions in ministry, as they now pursue other areas of service.
- Jodie Draut facilitated a book study (Joy Comes with the Morning) over several sessions.
- We provided a Lenten Soup supper, our first time hosting this fellowship event.
- We did an in-house presentation on “Closing a Caring Relationship,” and viewed and discussed a TED Talk, Brené Brown’s “The Power of Vulnerability.”
- We attended an Adult Ed session on “Action Plans and Living Solutions for Older Adults” presented by the Lutheran Home and enjoyed a visit from Lutheran Church Charities with JoJo the Comfort Dog.
- We took part in a program at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Palatine on Divorce, presented by White Stone Resources Christian Counseling, and two of us participated in a SamaraCare (formerly Samaritan Counseling) Stephen Ministry workshop in Winnetka in November.
- Pastor Heidtke guided us in a “Contemplative Advent” exercise, employing centering prayer.

For further information about this Christ-centered, life-changing ministry, please contact Stephen Leaders Karen Steil, Sue Katte, or Pastor Gail Heidtke.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Katte, Stephen Ministry Leader
PASTORAL CARE & CARING MINISTRIES

“Healer of our every ill, light of each tomorrow, give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.” ELW 612

Home Communion and Hospital Visitors
In addition to the pastors, members of Our Saviour’s extend care and support for people in the hospital and at home, sharing a call, a visit, a prayer and Holy communion. Our thanks to Liz McKay, Lois Sammons, Judy Platt, Ron Smith, Sharon Kollmer, Bob Shears, Scott Gierke and to some Stephen Ministers who may share communion with their care receivers.

Services of Prayer for Healing and for those Experiencing Loss
Most often on the first Saturday of each month, at 5pm we offer a worship service that is intentional in prayer and for healing. Thanks to those who participate as prayer ministers, and to Carol Rush who arranges for them. On December 21, 2019 we hosted a “Longest Night” worship service, with candlelight and prayers for those who have experienced loss, and may be having a difficult time during the holiday season.

Health and Wellness
Wellness Walkers continue each week, walking together and encouraging one another in health and fitness. CPR/AED/First Aid – Thanks to Ann Andrew who arranges for CPR & AED training and for all who participate. Ann and Erin McLaughlin also update our First Aid supplies and help them to be visible where needed.

Thanks be to God for the various ministries of care at Our Saviour’s,
Gail Heidtke, Pastor

HEALING TOUCH SPIRITUAL MINISTRY

Major achievements, progress & highlights of Healing Touch Spiritual Ministry at Our Saviour’s in 2019:
• 53 clients were seen from January – December 2019
• Public sessions were offered once every other month
• Practitioner exchanges were offered every other month
• Individual sessions by appointment were offered as an alternative to public sessions
• Ministry Fair – The HTSM team participated in the ministry fair on October 6 using our HTSM poster to promote Healing Touch Spiritual Ministry at Our Saviour’s
• Received donation of a massage table and shared a financial donation to the solar Project
• Congratulations to Carol Jeuell who completed the process to be a designated Healing Touch Certified Practitioner!

Goals for 2020:
• Improve advertising and communication about HTSM and its benefits to the congregation and to the community
• Continue learning and practicing HTSM techniques
• Encourage prospective new practitioners to join the program
• Offer classes on HTSM and healing topics in energy medicine

Healing Touch Spiritual Ministry Team Members: Carol Jeuell, Carol Bentsen, Inger Herbst, Holly Jacobsen, Gretchen Mahin, Phyllis Perivolidis, Eve Wilson, and Carol Wolf
New Age Connection Programs in 2019

We had many on and off site events and classes in 2019. Thank you to the following people who helped brainstorm and implement these events: Tony Passanante, Will Wagner, Gerry Skuta, Jayne Skuta, Chuck and Judy Platt, Kay Coyne, Roger Mattson, Betsy Wagner, Linda Brelsford, Patti Carroll, Heather Frank and Pastor Gail Heidtke

- On-site programs included **Soup Surprise** and **White Elephant Bingo**, **Maundy Thursday Noon Worship and Table Fellowship**, **a Ladies’ Night Service and Bingo event** (collaborated with Cari Ann Petersen), a “Fly Me to the Moon” themed **Summer Picnic** with entertainment provided by Sam Magdal, a **Recycled Scarecrow Contest** held during the Trunk or Treat event, **Thanksgiving Pie Fellowship** and **Mission Trip Fundraiser** (worked with Tracy Katschke and Cari Ann Petersen on this to raise funds for an Adult Mission Trip in Summer of 2020) and a **White Christmas Singalong** held during the Gingerbread event. **Matinee movies** (meets every other month—added evening times as well). Many adult education classes with topics of interest to this group were also offered. New ongoing groups are **Adult Supper Club** and **Freezer Meals**—both collaborated with Cari Ann Petersen.

- **Ongoing on-site** ministries/events include **Lunch, Laughs and Service** (meets every other month), the **Craft Connection** (meets seasonally evening and daytime).

- **Off-site activities** included theater outings: **Million Dollar Quartet; The Mousetrap; West Side Story; A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum; The Buddy Holly Story; and The Lion King, Jr; a Chicago Wolves Game; a day trip tour of Holy Family School; Troll Hunt at the Morton Arboretum (collaborated with Cari Ann Petersen); lunch and a boat tour of Lake Geneva; bus trip to Chicago Cubs vs Milwaukee Brewers in Milwaukee; and outdoor container and Holiday Centerpiece classes at Lurvey Garden Center. Musical outings included local Summer Concerts, and The Lakeside Singers and Lunch with Musical Monday or Fun Friday Performances.

- **Ongoing off-site** ministries/events include the monthly Let’s Go to the Movies. New ongoing off site events are Pickleball—hoping to meet monthly and Adult Golf Outing—hope to do more than one next Summer.

- **Goals for next year include** keeping some of the current on-site programs and adding a few more, off-site programs: going back to the Cubs game, Lyric Opera House, musical and local sports outings, more golf outings, and the Adult Mission Trip mentioned above—hoping to make this an annual event. Also continuing to work with Adult Education to provide more classes that interest this group.

- **Chair exercise classes** including Chair Yoga and Sit and Be Fit both taught by Lois Nelson continue to grow and have become signature programs of this ministry. Classes meet weekly throughout the entire year. Membership of the classes is an average of 40+ people for Chair Yoga and 20+ for Sit and Be Fit, with at least half of the participants not being members of Our Saviour’s, making it an excellent outreach opportunity. Free will offering is collected for these classes and because of this, charitable donations are made throughout the
year. This year, donations were made to the following on behalf of this group: Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church, City of Hope, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, The Dreamcatcher Foundation, The Wheeling Township Food Pantry and WINGS. We also have an annual Christmas party.

- **Contemplative, Candlelit Yoga for a Cause** was offered in the Winter and Spring and now has become Contemplative, Gentle Flow and Restorative Yoga as more movement was requested. This was offered for two sessions in the Fall (one daytime and one evening) and will continue in the Winter. Donations were made to ELCA Good Gifts for Backpacks of Food and also toward the Backpack Buddies program.

- **Goals for Chair Exercise**—to continue to offer the current classes and hope for even more growth and involvement from these participants in other events offered at Our Saviour’s; many participate in Lunch, Laughs and Service, Craft Connection, Soup Surprise and the Summer Picnic.

- **Caring Hearts Ministry**: This ministry provides short term assistance from volunteers to those with a need: rides to appointments, visits, friendly phone calls, meals, technology assistance and other services as needed. While under the umbrella of Adult Ministry, Caring Hearts help is available to any member of Our Saviour’s, regardless of age. Thank you to all those who provided rides, meals and other services to those in need: Barb Bisbee, Marilyn Breiding, Patti Carroll, Susan Erickson, Tama Filpi, Susan Filstead, Rebekah Haugen, Mindy Heinsoth, Marnie Kapuscinski, Susan Katte, Sheryl Kelso, Ruth Kingsley, Bev Leistico, Sharon Marcantoni, Gretchen Mahin, Roger Mattson, Nancy Richardson and Karen Souden.
  - Transportation was the primary requested service for 2019, with approximately 40+ rides to medical appointments, church activities as well as some weekly rides to worship services being provided.
  - Meals were provided for some people with health issues.
  - Goals: to continue to provide help to those in need.
  - Presented this ministry at the Fall minstry fair.

- **Prayer Shawl Ministry**: This ministry provides hand knit or crocheted shawls to those in need. Thank you to all those who hand crafted these shawls: Ann Andrew, Jean Broten, Susan Erickson, Sherry Hanahan, Pastor Gail Heidtke, Elaine Looft, Tammie Maurice, Kathy Nylec, Linda Scheufler, Kathy Shumway, Jeanne Williams, and Myrna Wylie.
  - Prayer shawl records indicate approximately 40 shawls were given to members and friends in need.
  - The annual Prayer Shawls blessing took place at all services the weekend of April 6 and 7. Prayer squares were blessed as well. Many shawls and prayer squares were distributed this weekend.
  - Many prayer squares (small knit squares with a cross charm and prayer card attached naming Our Saviour’s Prayer Shawl Ministry as the giver) were made and distributed by the hospital visitor/home communion ministry when making calls. These are very popular and well received. Thank you to Ann Andrew for providing these.
  - Presented this ministry at the Fall Ministry Fair.
  - Goals: to continue to provide comfort to those in need through shawls and prayer squares.

Respectfully submitted,

*Lois Nelson, Adult Ministry Coordinator*
The Office Staff and volunteers began 2019 fine tuning our use of the new Realm software and getting ready to unveil it to the congregation in the fall. We are pleased with the progress we have made with the new software and are happy to report that since it's unveiling over 600 members are now signed in and using Realm. Online financial gifts through Realm now account for over 40% of our income, and several groups and ministries of the church do their communications through Realm accounts.

The Office Staff continues to try new things to save money, postage, and streamline our administrative practices. Although we've had a couple challenging months recently due to the absence of our Office Manager, the entire team has pulled together to keep things moving and productive. Here's a brief update on Office Staff and Volunteers:

Cheryl Boncher-Office Manager, who provides administrative and office management support, enables the Congregational Operations Officer, Pastors, staff and leadership of the congregation fulfill the mission of the congregation. Of Cheryl's many accomplishments this year was organizing and training church leaders on the new Realm system. Since November 1, Cheryl has been on disability due to complications of her cancer diagnosis and treatment. We are hopeful that Cheryl will be back sometime in 2020, but in the meantime, her wondrously organized systems, files, procedures are enabling the rest of staff to keep up on her many responsibilities.

Jane Larson-Office Administrator, normally works 20 hours a week in the office. Her many duties and hours have expanded in November and December (an additional 5+ a week) to help fill the gap left by Cheryl's absence. Jane has eagerly learned new skills and has really grown in her ability to produce bulletins, process membership, and do a variety of other functions. Jane has been a great blessing in this time of need!

Laura Swanson-Bookkeeper, now in her third year at Our Saviour's, has grown much this past year – taking on additional duties in the Finance Department, mastering both the financial and contributions programs in Realm plus keeping on top of all her regular duties.

Ann Wagner-Communications Coordinator, designs the Parish Memo, bulletin cover artwork, posters, Adult Ed brochures, programs, postcards, banners, signage and other publicity items for the church. Ann coordinated the 2019 Pictorial Directory effort. She’s also been working with a team to redesign our website, which is very close to going live. In Cheryl's absence, this Annual Report was completed by Ann as well.

Many thanks to all the many volunteers who help in the office stuffing mailings, collating bulletins, mailing the Parish Memo, answering the phone, and helping with a variety of tasks. We especially want to note the work of our regular weekly volunteers: Jim Schleker & Kay Smith (Mondays), Nancy Gruthusen (Tuesdays); Barb Nelson (Wednesdays), and Diane Ferguson (Thursdays).

We are dedicated to carry out the tasks we are called to do, supporting the Lead Team and program staff to serve the people of Our Saviour's.

### Membership Records, as of...

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Respectfully submitted,

Jim Valentine, COO
COMPUTER/Tech Team Report

The church tech team is happy to report we have been able to continue our work with minimal impact to the budget by utilizing donations and volunteers to maintain our systems.

We held multiple work days to update computers as needed and fix any reported issues. All work is done by church members. We installed a Wyze video camera to be used for security after hours. We happily received a donation of 24 computers from a company that a friend of Our Saviour’s works for. We are upgrading everyone on staff now and will be installing the remainder early next year. This will be the first time in the church’s history that everyone will have the same model computer. At the same time we have been upgrading staff monitors to larger ones we received as donations.

We established multiple sub-committees: server, security, telephone, general support, to better share the workload and build greater depth within the tech team.

Finally, we want to encourage everyone to drop off old computer systems or recycle them. Computers we can’t use are cleaned up and given to other organizations or recycled.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Rennecker and Bill Little, Co-Chairs

Columbarium Memorialization Report

The Columbarium Memorialization Board was established in 2017 to oversee the management of the church’s columbarium. Our 60-niche Columbarium was installed in April, 2017 by Eickhof Columbaria, Inc. Over the past three years 59 of the 60 niches have been sold.

This past year, we purchased benches for the Columbarium Garden, rejoiced that the landscape team added many plants to the Garden making it an even lovelier place to visit our departed members, and expanded the Columbarium by adding 54 new niches. The construction of these new niches took place in October. Many thanks to members of the Property Committee for their efforts to make Eickhof’s installation a smooth process.

We now have 17 deceased Our Saviour’s members whose cremated remains are interred in the Columbarium.

In 2019, several of our original Board members retired from the Board. We give thanks for the guidance and work of Ed and Barbara Henricks, Arnie and Carolyn Lack, over the initial years of our Columbarium Ministry. Due to their retirement we welcomed two new couples to the Board: Bob and Jane Larson, Paul and Carol Keipert, who join ongoing Board members: Hans and Marilyn Stucki, Will and Grace Wagner.

In 2020 we hope to purchase a portable tent to cover the Columbarium Garden during Interment Ceremonies in foul weather and publicize the remaining 53 niches we currently have available for sale.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Valentine, Columbarium Administrator
2019 was another productive year for Our Saviour’s Communications, as we work hard to reach our current members and prospective new members in the manner that they find most comfortable. Whether you prefer electronic communication or hard copies, or a mix of the two, Our Saviour’s is looking to reach out and communicate with you!

The eMemo has become a staple for highlighted information pertinent to the upcoming week’s activities. Pastor Pete conceives the theme, and determines the featured photo or graphic. Ann Wagner designs and sends out the eMemos. If this electronic-email doesn’t sound familiar to you, please send an email to pwarmanen@oursaviours.org or awagner@oursaviours.org and ask to be placed on the eMemo distribution list.

2019 was a Pictorial Directory year for Our Saviour’s! 335 Our Saviour’s families had their portraits taken by the Lifetouch company. Photography sessions were held in May, June and July, and our new directory arrived in the Fall. Ann Wagner designed the front and back covers and coordinated the project. Many thanks also to Christine Bartels who designed the opening Activity Pages. Tremendous appreciation goes to the Pictorial Directory Team who helped schedule families for their portraits, and acted as hosts when the families arrived for their sessions. These volunteers are as follows: Kathy Bieber, Heather Frank, Barbara Nelson, Bobbie Bussau, LaVerne Myers, Jane Larson, and Irene Stoesser.

Communications Coordinator Ann Wagner designed a logo and various promotional pieces for the Legislator Forum which was held in November 2019. A press release was written, reminder postcards were handed out, lawn banners were designed, posters were hung in the surrounding community to inform the public about this open forum featuring State Senator Ann Gillespie, and State Representatives Tom Morrison and Mark Walker.

2020 will bring the launch of a re-design of our website: www.oursaviours.org. We are ever-indebted to Miguel Ruiz, our webmaster for his tireless work in the launching process of our “new look”! Thank you also to Andy Pozdol who assists with website sign ups, particularly for Adult Education classes, Vacation Bible School, Sunday School, Jubilation, and Confirmation online sign ups.

The following videos were shot, produced, and posted on our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/user/OSLC60004 (also known as simply: “Our Saviour’s”).
- Organ/Piano Duets with Beth Timm & Matt Haider, February 2019 (4 videos)
- Transfiguration Sunday, March 3, 2019
- “The Chicken” at Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church
- “Blessed Assurance” by Sydney Sadler & Matt Haider
- “Bridge Over Troubled Water” by T. Duncan Parker and Matt Haider
- God’s Work. Our Hands. Sunday at Our Saviour’s
- Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church Postlude Music on “Care of Creation Sunday”
- “Order My Steps” from October 27, 2019
- Catch the Vision - 2019 Highlights

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Wagner, Communications Coordinator
EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

In its second year of existence, the Emergency Response Team (ERT) took many steps to improve the safety of members and guests to Our Saviour’s. In addition to the Go-Kits and ERT charts posted in each room, we now have a wireless Public Address (PA) System installed so communications during emergencies can be enhanced.

On April 7, 2019 the team sponsored a safety day. Fire drills took place at all worship services; children received a presentation (and visit from a fire truck) from the Arlington Heights Fire Department.

Safe Needle disposal boxes were installed in bathrooms in 2019.

Plans for 2020 include training and drills for lock-downs and tornado/weather incidents.

Many thanks to the members of this team: Jim Schleker, Erin McLaughlin, Jill Lisius, Matt Guidera, Sheryl Hilbert, Cari Ann Petersen, Mark Langguth, Mary Fullen, and Dan Boncher. Thanks, too, to Erin McLaughlin and Ann Andrew for working to update all of our first aid stations on a regular basis.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Valentine, COO

FRIENDSHIP CALLERS

The Friendship Callers are a group of Our Saviour’s members who make phone calls, emails, or written notes to their fellow church members who have not been present at worship for three or more months in a row. These names are generated by the church office staff and pastors who keep track of worship attendance and those who have not attended worship. Calls are made in mid-winter, in late spring, and again in early fall.

In 2019 the Friendship Callers made 88 calls to members. When we reach out to these members we assure them they were missed, highlight upcoming activities and emphases, and listen – especially listen – to any concerns, issues, health problems, etc. that they wish to tell us about. Many times we find out people are ill or have moved. As appropriate, information is passed on to pastors for follow up. The most common answer we receive is that they are just very busy and hope to get back to church. We find that this personal call does bring members back to worship!

We appreciate the following volunteers who participate in this special ministry of reaching out: Marilyn Breiding, Joyce Cozak, Corky Little, Bobby Lutton, Liz McKay, Chuck Platt, Kathy Shumway, Ron Smith and Anne Wisniewski; and the coordinator of the Friendship Caller program: Cheryl Boncher.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Valentine, COO
The committee continues to advise the Council and staff on finance matters and takes care of all the financial record keeping of the church.

Several highlights of our work this past year include:

• After almost three years, the update of all our financial policies and procedures is complete! A great debt of gratitude is due to Jean Jans for coordinating this effort and editing all of these 30 documents.
• This was our first year to work entirely in the new Realm online, cloud-based program. Finance Officers, staff, and volunteers have adjusted and are finding new ways to use Realm to be more efficient and productive.
• A new Gift Acceptance Policy was developed and approved this year. Many thanks to Scott Gierke and Janet Boryk for taking the lead on this project.
• The solar project and how to fund it was a major concern this past year. With SRECs and rebates coming in, energy savings to compute, loans to take and pay back, there was much financial work to be done to stay on top of this. Many thanks to Scott Marienau and Jim Linday for developing the spreadsheets to monitor this.
• Kudos to Patti Carroll, our Memorial and Special Gifts Coordinator who wrote countless thank you notes for memorial gifts after the many funerals of 2019.
• Many thanks to Bob Carroll who reorganized the archives and retention materials stored in the church basement
• After five years of service, Treasurer Jim Linday is retiring in February. We are grateful for the many ways Jim has contributed as treasurer. Jim was influential in many ways including leading us to Realm and always advocating for the growth of our church and its giving.
• We are also grateful that Scott Marienau has offered to stand for election as our new treasurer. Scott brings many gift to us and we look forward to working with him!
• While we are grateful for all on our committee, we are especially grateful to those do the lion’s share of the day to day work: Carol Guidera, Financial Secretary, Kay Smith, recorder of membership giving records, and Laura Swanson, our dynamic Bookkeeper.

Finance Committee:

Glenn Meier, Bank Reconciliation
Bobbie Bussau, Secretary of the Committee and Commitment Recorder/Analyst
Bob Carroll, Archivist
Jim Linday, Treasurer
Carol Guidera, Financial Secretary
Kay Smith, Assistant to the Financial Secretary
Richard Morton, Head Counter
Scott Gierke, Stock Transactions
Patti Carroll, Memorial and Special Gifts Coordinator
Laura Swanson, Bookkeeper
Steve Zielke, Cemetery Plot Coordinator
Janet Boryk, Stock Coordinator
Todd Gierke
Scott Marienau
Jim Valentine, COO

Counters:

Respectfully submitted, Jim Valentine, COO
MISSION ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

The Mission Endowment Committee manages the congregation’s Mission Endowment Fund and the Heritage Society (comprised of those who have made provisions in their estate plan to leave a portion of their estate to OSLC or have made cumulative lifetime gifts to the endowment of at least $3,000).

This past year has been a good one for the financial performance of the Endowment, thanks in part to favorable investments. We began the Endowment’s 2019 fiscal year on October 1, 2018 with a Fund balance of $736,097. During fiscal year 2019, the Fund received gifts of $19,850 and had earnings of $29,681 (growth rate of 4.1%). Disbursements from the Fund to further the ministries of Our Saviour’s were $35,425, leaving an end-of-fiscal-year balance on September 30, 2019 of $750,203.

The congregation established the Mission Endowment Fund in 1994, so we celebrated the endowment’s 25th anniversary in 2019. Since its inception, the Fund has received $508,212 in gifts, generating investment returns of $510,842. From these returns, we have allocated for disbursement $318,906, and returned to the Fund $191,936 for future growth. These impressive numbers make clear the power of the endowment to support the current and future ministries of the church. The detailed financial reports for the Mission Endowment Fund can be found on pages ______ in the Congregational Annual Report.

We are grateful for the committee of dedicated volunteers who served during the last year. They are:
Ken Westlake (chair), Glenn Meier (financial secretary), Jim Valentine, Karen Mazurek, Craig Schuessler, Chuck Platt, Judy Platt, Jane DeBaun, Marilyn Breiding, Gerry Skuta, and Tony Passanante.

Respectfully submitted,
Ken Westlake, Committee Chair

MISSION RESOURCE COMMITTEE

The Mission Resource Committee (MRC) developed this year’s Stewardship Theme: **Catch the Vision: See How God is Leading us into 2020.** Thanks to all who were part of the execution of this theme throughout the fall. Especially memorable were the messages from congregants and our seminary students regarding where they have seen God working through the ministries of Our Saviour’s in 2019.

Most importantly, a big thank you to all who provide time, talent, and treasure to continue to drive the mission of Our Saviour’s.

We also had a special opportunity to support the team sponsoring the Solar Panel installation at the church. The MRC led the efforts to ensure that the congregation was aware of this important initiative and had the opportunity to financially support this program.

Thank you to our terrific MRC Team:
Robin Brown, Judy Collins, Kevin McLaughlin, Jennifer Romano, Paul Sandberg, Craig Swanson, Dave Timm, and Pastor Pete Warmanen

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Timm, Chairperson
**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

The Personnel Committee meets periodically throughout the year to discuss personnel issues relating to staffing, compensation guidelines, and health insurance plans to make recommendations for the Lead Team and Council.

**Personnel Committee in 2019:**
- Proposed salary increases and made recommendation to stay with Portico Health Insurance for 2020
- Provided recommendation for addressing Short Term Leave situations
- Reviewed and updated Employee Handbook

**Personnel Committee Goals in 2020:**
- Continue to consider the Our Saviour’s staffing arrangements
- Re-Evaluate annual employee feedback process
- Assist Lead Team and Council with 2020 personnel issue requests
- Research compensation and health insurance plans for 2021

Thank you to the Personnel Committee members: **Sheilia Bechtoldt, Joe Brennan, Edward Hartman, Kathy Hendrickson, Ruth Johansen, and Stephanie Luzio.** Extra thanks to **Jim Valentine** for his time, support and feedback to the committee.

Respectfully submitted,

*Chris Filpi, Chair*
The mission of the POWER Ministry is to live God’s call to love our neighbor and care for the oppressed through service, advocacy, and political action. This work is done in response to, and in unity with, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Advocacy Team.

The highlights of POWER’s ministry during 2019 include:

• Met with legislators on Lutheran Day in Springfield
• Presented workshop at the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly on church advocacy
• Attended a showing of the film Emanuel: The Untold Story of the Victims and Survivors of the Charlestown Church Shooting with discussion afterward
• Marched in the Buffalo Grove Pride Parade
• Sponsored talk by Karla Robles, DACA recipient now beginning her teaching career
• Led “Prophetic Faith,” seven-week Adult Education class
• Held Legislator Forum in November, hosting State Senator Ann Gillespie, State Representative Tom Morrison, and State Representative Mark Walker
• POWER leadership met with incoming Metro Chicago Synod Bishop Yehiel Curry
• Leadership also talked with and made POWER known to Bishop Elizabeth Eaton during her visit
• Met with members of Countryside Unitarian Church concerning a potential partnership for refugee housing
• Prof. John Schlichtman of DePaul University gave two presentations on affordable housing and gentrification
• Offered tutorial on following Illinois legislation online and submitting witness slips
• Signed letters to legislators regarding gun violence legislation
• POWER’s gun violence resolution was adopted at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly
• Metropolitan Chicago Synod passed two POWER-sponsored actions in support of the social statement “Faith, Sexism, and Justice,” one calling on congregations to study and begin to apply it and the other calling on the Churchwide Assembly to support it (which it did)
• Held education session regarding ELCA’s new status as a sanctuary church body
• Wrote a Letter to the Editor published in the Daily Herald, advocating for the welcome of immigrants
• Participated in the Community Renewal Society, Northwest Suburban Cluster
• Members regularly attended Arlington Heights Board meetings to advocate for affordable housing and racial diversity in police force hiring

The POWER Ministry invites all members of Our Saviour’s and the local community to join us in advocating for the rights of the oppressed and marginalized. We meet on the first Tuesday of the month from 7:00 – 8:30pm at the church. We thank all those who have worked with POWER over the past year, especially Church Council Liaison Jim Valentine and those who served on the POWER leadership team during 2019:

Betty Birner, Mary Beth Canty, Jodie Draut, Kathleen Morkert, Liz McKay, Char Heeg, Doug Harrison, Rosemary Walter, and Les Weber.
The Property Committee has had an amazing year! There were many projects the committee and volunteers carried out in 2019 (over 100!) to keep Our Saviour’s welcoming and looking good.

And there were some major projects the committee was responsible for this year, too, including: Negotiating contracts for snow removal & HVAC maintenance, purchasing new appliances for the kitchen, re-shingling the peaked roofs, the solar installation project, the expansion of the Columbarium, replacement of HVAC units in the Worship Space, and tuck-pointing of exterior brick.

Three work days were held over the year to accomplish many projects – both inside and out. The Property Committee is thankful to the 80+ individuals who gave up a Saturday to help care for our facilities and grounds.

The Landscape Team was very active! Improvements were made in the inner courtyard and columbarium gardens; and an adopt-a-garden program was established to care for many of the parking lot islands.

A vegetable garden produced tons of tomatoes, zucchinis, carrots and other veggies for our weekly “Veggie Share.” Many thanks to the Team: Linda Falotico, Alan Garlock, Kathy Hendrickson, Lucy Harrison, Denise Janci, and Thom Kraak for their leadership and to all those who weeded, watered, and adopted our grounds. It’s never looked more beautiful.

We also would like to thank Jeannie Weber for her weekly care of all of our inside plants – both in the worship space and in the north entry.

We continue to be grateful to our custodial staff from BIT, Inc: Beronia, Doris and Marie who take good care of the facilities and make sure it is clean and welcoming at all times. Our set up crew: Michael Harris and Max Ligenza have served us well in getting rooms ready for the dozens of meetings and events each week.

We are grateful to Devin Illy, whose Eagle Scout Project this past year was to update our electrical facilities manual – which hadn’t been updated since before the 2016 construction. Thank you, Devin, for the many days and hours you and your crew spent getting this important document in shape for us.

Our goals for 2020 include: replacing the HVAC units in the upper and lower Fellowship Hall rooms, more tuck-pointing, and re-paving the parking lot drive through between Olive and Arlington Heights Road.

We are grateful for our Committee members: Bob Larson, Russ Samyn, Sascha Illy, Terry Daulton, Kurtis Frank, Alan Garlock, Pete Bartels, Ron Kelso, Bruce Reinger, Eric Koch, Andy Birner, and chair, Rick Zanini, along with our regular weekly volunteers: Gordon Souden, Bill Zerwer, and Chip Benson.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Valentine, COO