

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
2021 Annual Report



Reaching out with a voice of HOPE!

Updated January 19, 2022



Table of Contents

2 Table of Contents

3 Agenda

Clergy Reports

4-5 Pastor Kiri Solberg

6-7 Pastor Maria Pederson

Program Reports

8 Interim Ministry Associate

9-11 CYF Innovator

12 Preschool Director

13-14 Director of Music & Worship Arts

Small Group & Team Reports

15 Chapel, Cemetery, Columbarium
Dinner's at 6:30

Fair Trade—Equal Exchange

Faith & Fiction Book Group

16 Fiction Addiction Book Group

Guatemala Mission Team

16-17 Hard Hat Ministry

17 Little Dresses for Africa

Meditation Garden

18 Motorcycle Ministry

18-19 Prayer Bead Ministry

19 Property

20 Pub Theology

Quilting Blocks in Stages

Seasoned Adult Ministry

Stamping Ministry

20-21 Stewardship Team

21 Tree of Life Library

Women's Retreat

22-23 Lake Wapogasset Bible Camp Report

23 Meals on Wheels Report

24-28 2022 Election Nominee Mini Bios

29 President's Report

30-32 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes

33 Treasurer's Report

34 Audit Team Report

Financials

35 2022 Proposed Budget

36 Year-end Income & Expense Summary

37-38 Dedicated Funds 2021

38 Reserve Fund

Property Maintenance Fund

Mortgage Debt Reduction

39 Chapel/Cemetery Report

40 Statistics

Annual Congregational Meeting Agenda

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
19001 Jackson Street NE, East Bethel, MN 55011

January 30, 2022



1. Call to Order: Nancy Arnold, Council President
2. Opening Prayer
3. Appointment of Meeting Secretary: Priscilla Anderson
4. Appointment of Meeting Parliamentarian: Dennis Sackreiter
5. Roll Call—Quorum 75
6. Approval of January 31, 2021 Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes
7. Election of Officers, Council, and Team Members
8. Pastoral Reports
9. Auditor's Report
10. Treasurer's Report
11. 2022 Budget
12. New Business
13. Closing Prayer
14. Adjournment





Clergy Reports

Senior Pastor Kiri Solberg



January 10, 2022

I am happy to say that I have been the Senior Pastor of this wonderful congregation for a full year now! The more I learn about Our Saviour's the more I appreciate our history, our church culture and our hopes for the future together. What a gift it is to serve here! Looking back on 2021, there are a number of things I'd like to highlight:

Staff

We are really blessed with an outstanding staff who go above and beyond to work together as a team and to share Christ's love in this congregation and the world around us. The adaptability and adjustments they continue to make through the ongoing pandemic are remarkable. We engaged in two workshops in the past year to learn more about ourselves in addition to how

we function as a team. It was helpful learning that continues to enhance our roles together. 2021 brought several staff transitions in addition to changes in some roles.

Glennady Ose retired as Deacon on February 28. Subsequently, Pastor Maria Pederson increased her role from half-time to three-quarters time, and we brought Pastor Jeff Beebe on board as part-time visitation pastor.

Kim Fread retired as Bookkeeper on July 29. Jan Green, with assistance from Pastor Kiri, covered the role until we were able to hire Beth Graham, who started September 16.

Several staff were given new titles to better reflect current or expanded roles. They include Jan Green – Office Administrator, Lori Vickstrom – Building Manager, Leisha Tays – CYF Innovator and Lisa Rykken Kastler – Interim Ministry Associate.

As we live into the reality of being a changing church in a changing world, we will need to continue to meet our staffing needs in creative ways. Many thanks to our HR team and Church Council for their partnership in supporting current staff and envisioning for the future!

Vision & Mission

Our staff and council held a recharge event in April. We continue to work on priorities that were raised up during that time, including re-energizing both a Local Outreach Team that will extend invitations to the local community and a Social Justice Team that will work on inclusivity and other justice issues. Additionally, the council appointed a task force to explore and make a recommendation for engaging a consultant for strategic planning work in 2022.

We also applied for and were awarded an opportunity to participate in a grant program through the Minneapolis Area Synod called Faith Practices and Neighboring Practices.

We have a team of 2 staff and 3 lay leaders who are participating in a monthly cohort to learn and bring back ways Our Saviour's can more fully engage in our community. The cohort started in September 2021 and will continue for 2 years.

Our Saviour's is blessed with faithful, capable and visionary lay leaders. Many thanks for all they give for the leadership of our church!

Pandemic

We continued to live with the implications of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2021. It impacted our congregation in so many ways, from serious illness and death of members, family and friends due to the virus, to ongoing stress on individuals, families, health-care workers, educators, other front-line workers and those in many other occupations. As a community we have worked hard to care for and respect one another. I am thankful for the guidance we have received from the health professionals on our Health Advisory Team who continue to meet to advise our leadership on the many decisions we need to make about in-person ministries. We walk this path with a desire to keep one another safe while also holding up what an important role the church plays in our spiritual, mental and emotional well-being.

150th Anniversary

What an honor it is to know that we are part of a long line of the faithful who have shared Jesus' love in this community for 150 years now! Many thanks to our 150th Anniversary Team who began gathering as early as September 2021 to plan the slate of anniversary events for 2022. We look forward to a year full of celebrations and to the ways we will continue to follow God's call into the next decades.

I am so glad to have been called to Our Saviour's. May we discern new and impactful ways to Reach Out with a Voice of Hope in the next year and beyond!





Clergy Reports

Pastor Maria Pederson



The old adage that “the only thing constant in life is change” really rang true in 2021. With each change in the pandemic, Our Saviour’s pivoted as we continued to Reach Out with a Voice of Hope.

In January, we moved from streaming one blended Sunday service to streaming two services each Sunday: traditional and contemporary. Over the course of the year, we resumed in-person worship and reopened the building to groups. In September, Sunday morning Children’s Ministry resumed and Confirmation students & high school youth returned to the building regularly as well, with Wednesday night Revelation Worship resuming in-person. In December, we were able to have Christmas worship inside the church building – a notable change from 2020!

Over the past two years, we’ve discovered that livestreaming provides a much-needed connection for people who are homebound as well as for our snowbirds and those who are not ready to worship in the building yet due to health issues. In the summer, we purchased new livestreaming equipment to provide better video & audio to those of you worshipping at home. Jan Green has developed new livestreaming skills, as has volunteer livestreamer Jerome Bokelmann. We are blessed with talented people who want to ensure everyone can worship with Our Saviour’s. Thank you! We continue to work to improve the quality of our livestreamed worship. Thank you to Jon Oachs & Jerome Bokelmann for heading the technical work on this!

Zoom Coffee Hour has been another point of connection for those at home. Thank you to Jan Bovee for hosting these weekly times of meaningful conversation & connection!

As we sought ways to connect with one another this past year, two Music & Game Nights were held during the summer: one outdoors and one indoors. Thank you to musicians Eeva Savolainen & friends, Cami Baker & friends, Joyce & Michael Finch, and Laura Gibney & Jennifer Thurman for your music!

We re-invigorated our connection with the North Metro Grief Support Coalition in 2021 as in-person Grief Support resumed. Donna Nelson & Bruce Floren served as volunteer facilitators at the fall 2021 series. Thank you, Donna & Bruce! If you’ve experienced the loss of a loved one, be aware of this excellent opportunity and watch for info on the next series of gatherings which begin in March 2022.

A huge THANK YOU to all who made each of these events and worship services happen, including our intrepid ushers, music volunteers, and those who served Communion on Christmas Eve. We literally couldn’t do it without you!

Every staff member has had a hand in making many good things happen this past year, too. With the myriad permutations of worship, I want to say a special thank you to our music & worship staff. Your creativity, flexibility, and commitment have been an absolute blessing to our worship life!

With the challenges schools have faced in the past year, I want to say a special thank you to our preschool staff as well. They kept up with every update in CDC & MDH guidance to ensure that our preschoolers were able to have school in-person this past year. State grants for preschools were applied for and received – an incredible gift to the church and to our preschool families.

Speaking of staff, at the beginning of the year, staff members provided devotions on Facebook Live Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays. As restrictions eased and staff took on more in-person responsibilities, we moved to devotions on Wednesdays.

November marked one year since Senior Pastor Kiri Solberg took the helm as head of staff. What a blessing it is to serve with her! She has been incredible in nurturing the team spirit among the staff and council. She's taken the time to listen and get to know the congregation, and is wonderful at pulling people together to dream about what God is calling us to as we move into the future.

In other staffing news, Deacon Glenndy Ose retired on February 28. She was an incredible colleague, and we wish her all the best! With Glenndy's retirement, I moved from half time to three-quarter time on March 1, adding Preschool and Pastoral Care to my portfolio.

In June, Pastor Jeff Beebe came on board as part-time Visitation Pastor. His consistent care has been invaluable to those with whom he visits. Welcome aboard, and thank you for your ministry and partnership, Pastor Jeff!

At the end of the 2020-2021 school year, Preschool Teacher Adriana Belec and her husband moved out of state. We're thankful for all Mrs. Adriana brought to our preschool program, and wish God's blessings on her & her family! In the summer of 2021, Jenny Miller was brought on board to fill the open Preschool Teacher position. She is a ray of sunshine who was born to teach preschoolers, and has been a terrific addition to the team. Welcome, Ms. Jenny!

At the end of the 2020-2021 bell season, Julie Stitt retired as Director of Handbells. Julie served in this role for over 25 years and impacted many lives in the process. We bade Julie & her husband Don farewell, and we wish them every blessing in their retirement! In September, long-time bell ringer Amanda Heywood joined the staff as our new Director of Handbells. She has jumped in with both feet, and we are excited about the bell choirs' future. Welcome to the staff, Amanda!

As we continue to Reach Out with a Voice of Hope, I am thankful for all of you wonderful people, for all the talented & dedicated staff I am honored to serve alongside, and for God's continued presence and leading. As the pandemic continues to shift and change, we continue to be the body of Christ together. We move into 2022 with confidence, knowing that God is with us, guiding us every step of the way.

Peace,

Pastor Maria



Program Staff Reports

Interim Ministry Associate

Lisa Rykken Kastler



I began the year in the role of Interim Children's Ministry Director with plans to move on early in the year into my new career in real estate early 2021. After a 30 year career in ministry, including 25 years in congregational ministry, I find that I have a number of different experiences and ways to help in ministry. I did believe that I was wrapping up my congregational ministry career with my position at Our Saviour's. Because I'm still here, you can see that God (and Pastor Kiri) had other plans. So, in 2021, I have been part-time, helping in a variety of ministry areas, wherever needed.

My heart (and most of my career) is in the Children, Youth, and Family (CYF) ministries. From January through March when in-person meeting was limited to worship, I had fun doing a half hour children's ministry Zoom called "Sunday's Cool."

As the fall started, I moved into leading in-person "Bible Live!" for 2nd-5th graders during the 10:15 a.m. Sunday service where the students learn and act out a Biblical story. Then, after worship, the students present the Bible story for family members. We all have fun doing it! On December 16, the students presented the Christmas story for the children's message, which was so fun! Hearing young people's voices tell the Christmas story always makes my heart melt.

I've also helped with human resource work at OSLC this year. I've worked by posting open staff positions, conducting first round phone interviews, and lining up next interviews for the children's ministry position, the CYF administrative position, the bookkeeper position, and the custodial position. As you may know, hiring qualified people has not been easy in 2021. Some of the positions at OSLC are still open and we are still looking to fill those positions.

Throughout the summer, I worked to connect with all of the adult groups and their leaders that met pre-pandemic to check in and see if the groups were re-starting. The information of the group meetings and how to connect with the leaders was put together in a brochure on adult ministry. There are so many ways to connect with people in this faith community. I encourage you to look over that brochure to see if there is a group that you would like to join. If you have an idea for another group and want to start it, please be in touch so that we can help you launch a new group. Another area that I've been asked to help at OSLC is in adult education. Karen Olien led a study following the book "Alongside" this fall and will be leading another soon. I continue to look for a leader so that an adult study can be offered soon.

Most recently, I have been growing the Local Outreach Team with Karen Moehring's help. In the church constitution, the two charges include inviting the community to OSLC and also welcoming them when they do come to OSLC. For Christmas, we posted Facebook events and information on community pages, inviting members of the public to come to Our Saviour's. You can all help the Local Outreach Team by inviting people you know to Our Saviour's for worship or other events. If you would like to join the team, I'd love your help! Please let me know.

Thanks to all of you for letting me join you in this lovely faith community.

Lisa Rykken Kastler

CYF Innovator

Leisha Tays

What a diverse year 2021 was in CYF (Children, Youth & Family) Ministries and in our world in general again! I remain humbled and beyond blessed to be working with our children, youth and families at Our Saviour's! I'm grateful for all the ways we continued to be able to be together during this ongoing pandemic.

As we navigated all the challenges that COVID-19 continued to place in our way, our ministry continued to not just happen, but it continued to grow and thrive. Thank you to all of our congregation and participants for your patience, flexibility and support as we continued to care for all of our children, youth and families in creative ways – new and old.

You all will continue to be in my prayers as we enter into ministry together in 2022.

In Grace,

Leisha Tays, CYF Innovator



CYF Staffing Changes

This past June, Leisha's job changed from Director of Confirmation & Youth Ministries to CYF Innovator. She has and will continue to be the face of our confirmation and youth ministries but has also become the innovator and visionary for the ministries of all ages in the CYF programming at Our Saviour's for birth through college-age.

In June, we were excited to welcome Laura Welciek to the CYF Team! Laura serves as our CYF Administrative Specialist. Laura has been a member of OSLC for the past 8 years and has worked in education for 18 years. She uses her background in education and technology to help the CYF ministries in many ways. Among other things, Laura's role includes youth and confirmation communications, registrations, support for events and programs and so much more! In addition, Laura has been a caring and supportive person for our youth and families!

We have an open position for a Children's Ministry Director to complete our CYF Team.



Children's Ministries

Vacation Bible School

After a year off from VBS in 2020 due to COVID, VBS returned in August this year and was a blast! We had two sessions per day with 60 kids and almost 20 volunteers! The theme for 2021 was "Treasured" where kids learned that they are God's Treasure.

Godly Play

Godly Play is a new Children's Ministry opportunity on Sunday mornings for those in Preschool-1st Grade. There are currently 19 children registered, led by 1 adult guide and 3 junior guides.

In Godly Play, Children explore faith through telling Bible stories and church life followed by a time of recreating the story with independent play (using art, play, conversation).



Program Staff Reports



Bible Live!

Bible Live! is a new Children's Ministry opportunity on Sunday mornings for those in 2nd-5th Grade. Children walk through the Bible through skits. Children experience being an actor, director, stage hand, and more (with caring adults leading every step of the way). There's a place for everyone! Currently there are 26 children registered, 1 adult guide and 3 junior guides.



First Communion

This November we were thrilled to celebrate First Communion with 16 young people. The children and youth spent time at Our Saviour's with parents/guardians. They heard the story of the Last Supper from the disciple Matthew (CYF Innovator, Leisha), baked unleavened bread that they used for their first communion, wrote their own communion prayer and created a paten with their prayer on it that then held their bread, they created a tablecloth for the altar and learned about community. They celebrated their First Communion on Thanksgiving Eve in worship with their church family.



Prayground

2021 saw the introduction of our Prayground. The Prayground provides a place for our youngest ones in worship. The space includes books, quiet toys, art and more. It provides families a space for little ones to stay busy and still engaged up front in the worship space. The Prayground also communicates to families that children are welcomed and encouraged in worship.

Confirmation Ministries

Confirmation

Confirmation at Our Saviour's is a three-year program beginning in the fall of 6th grade and the students affirming their baptism in the fall of 9th grade. We use the "Here We Stand" curriculum which is a Lutheran-based, three-year rotation of Old Testament, New Testament and Lutheran Traditions. We currently have 70 students attending confirmation and 7 adult guides and 4 high school junior guides helping to lead for the 2021-2022 programming year. Youth are digging into their Bibles, having great discussions and contemplating the Bible and how it fits into their life and faith and what it means to them today. They have been very engaged and so much fun to explore faith

with this year! Beginning of 2020 we wrapped up our learning about the Old Testament via Zoom and in the fall we started our studies on the New Testament, back in person.



Affirmation of Baptism

This October we celebrated with 21 families as their 9th graders affirmed their faith in confirmation worship services. We are so proud of their commitment and ongoing faith journey. We are proud of all of our youth in each of their individual faith walks.

Service Projects

Our confirmation ministries have been busy putting their faith into actions through a variety of service projects. Those projects included: Random Acts of Kindness, leading games and handing out treats at Trunk n Treat, collecting food and assembling Turkey Baskets for our community, which were distributed through N.A.C.E. Food Shelf, and more.



Youth Ministries

Youth Group

Every week, high school and college-age youth gather together for fellowship and learning. They spent the 2020-2021 program year experiencing “Echo – the Story”. We walked through the Old Testament stories, imagining them in new and unique ways. We imagined through story-telling, drawing, creative writing, poetry and more.

For 2021-2022 program year, youth group has been exploring and learning about other religions and religious groups. We are discovering even more and becoming more confident in our Christian faith while gaining a respect for other religions and beliefs.

Mission Trip

In June, a group of 9 youth and 3 adults participated in a mission trip to Charleston, West Virginia with YouthWorks. It was a phenomenal experience learning the culture, building relationships with the other churches serving, as well as those in the community, serving various organizations in the city, and enjoying cultural events.

CYF Ministries Spanning the Ages

Camp Wapo

Summer of 2021 we were able to return safely to in-person ministries at Camp Wapo! 36 children and youth celebrated camp together with worship, campfires, games, canteen, Bible studies, friendship and so much more! We are deeply grateful for our partnership with Camp Wapo and already looking forward to next summer.

CYF Events

Community Christmas, Trunk n Treat, Movies on the Lawn, Game Nights, Children’s Messages weekly in Worship, Families/Children/Youth participating in worship, leading in Sundays Worship and in Wednesdays’ Revelation Worship, Fall Kick Off, Service Projects, and so much more! What a fabulous year of Children, Youth and Family Ministries at Our Saviour’s!





Program Staff Reports

Our Saviour's Preschool Director



Mrs. Lissa

Lissa Leebens

This year has been another interesting one for us, but we are so thankful we have been able to teach in-person! It was such an unsettling year, with the uncertainty that at any time we could close abruptly, again. Praise God we only had to close once for a short amount of time. We ended the school year in May with a small gathering for our Spring Program, as well as Graduation for the children going off to Kindergarten. It was a wonderful way to end the year.

The summer was again a summer of uncertainty. What would happen in the fall?! Thankfully, we started school at the beginning of September, as planned. We've had to continue with the "new" rules and regulations but this has allowed us to be open and provide the safest environment for the children. It's like a full time job trying to keep up with all the updates and changes due to the pandemic!

We have two small classrooms again this year to provide a safer and healthier environment for the children. We hired a new teacher, Mrs. Jenny, to teach the younger preschool and Mrs. Jane moved to our older Preschool/Kindergarten Readiness Class. I continue to teach in the afternoons. We feel truly blessed to have the families we have! They have shown us so much love and support through all of this!

We ended our year with an in-person Christmas Program, which was shared virtually, which we are finding to be the new norm. We couldn't have done it without the help from Jen our Music Director and Jan our Office Administrator.

We are so thankful to be back in school teaching these children in-person, and for technology bringing the parents some of the things they can't see "in-person."

As we head into the New Year, we continue to pray for the safety and well being of our children. Please pray for our Preschool Program as we hope to increase our enrollment so we can continue to teach God's love to these children in a fun, learning Christian environment.

Blessings,

Lissa Leebens



Mrs. Jane



Mrs. Jenny



Director of Music & Worship Arts

Jennifer Thurman

What a year! In 2021 the Music & Worship Department was able to navigate the pandemic with a better understanding of technology, recording, live streaming, and safety procedures. While we were still adapting through the pandemic, the various music groups were able to bring some wonderful music & artistry to Our Saviour's through new equipment, innovation, and perseverance. With so many different artists and instruments to make a joyful noise with, Our Saviour's worship continues to be a rich and varied experience.

Palm Sunday Worship Experience

2021's Palm Sunday was a combination of pre-recorded actors and live scripture readings from the pastors. It was a creative worship experience that followed Matthew's telling of the events from Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem up until his arrest in the garden of Gethsemane. Using a liturgy called "The Wilderness Journey: From Palms to Passion," we heard storytelling from five voices important to the week's events which immersed us in the narrative flow of the Passion story.

Bluegrass Sundays

On June 13, The Cornerstone Band went the extra mile by bringing everyone some awesome live Bluegrass music outside on the platform in the back of the church. We did record the music ahead of time for our online worship but we were THRILLED to see the congregation in person - finally! There is nothing like being able to play music with a congregation that is face-to-face, singing and enjoying each other's company. In October we also held an indoor fall Bluegrass Service with the band spread out across the stage area. Fiddler Tessa McLean was able to join us for both the June and October Bluegrass services.

Live Stream Equipment

In August we were able to purchase some new live streaming equipment which has changed our online worship an incredible amount! A Tech Team was assembled with Jon Oachs, Steve Nelson, Jerome Bokelmann, and Jennifer Thurman and between the four team members a lot of research was done and multiple quotes were narrowed down to one company - Twin Cities Sound. The equipment was installed in mid-August and came with a 3 hour training session. By the end of the installation week, Jan Green had it up and running for worship and it has been a blessing to our church ever since.

Amanda Heywood, Director of Handbells

At the end of September, Our Saviour's was happy to announce our new Director of Handbells, Amanda Heywood. We were so pleased to have her earn the position after ringing with the Carillon Bells for many years - it just felt right to have someone so experienced with the group take on this leadership role. Amanda hit the ground running: she started rehearsals right away, had the Bells ringing in worship by November, and organized the kid's bell group (The Jubilate Bells) to get back together after taking a break during the pandemic. Our Saviour's is blessed to have her be a part of the Music Staff and to continue the musical excellence that the Carillon Bells have shared through the years.



Program Reports



Eeva Savolainen

Evening Hymns with the Celebration Choir

In October, The Celebration Choir started live streaming a hymn at the end of rehearsal every Tuesday evening. It was branded “Evening Hymns with the Celebration Choir” and each week they lead people online with a hymn you could sing along with from the comfort of your home. They took a break during December to concentrate on Christmas music but will be starting up again soon.

Martin Luther Reformation Skit

On Reformation Sunday, the congregation was visited by special guests Martin Luther, Katie Luther, and the whole cast of the 1517 Reformation! The multi-generational cast shared their stories and the transformational history that shaped the Lutheran faith as it is today. After worship we enjoyed a “Marty Party” complete with (root)Beer, German Soft Pretzels, and German Butter Cookies.

Other Highlights in The Music Department

Gary Kortemeier and Eeva Savolainen blessed us with a gorgeous duet on Ash Wednesday. As our two resident professional vocalists, their buttery voices brought a tear to many eyes with the song “Panis Angelicus” by César Franck.

For the five Wednesdays in Lent we heard from families about how they were navigating the pandemic and how they were finding new ways to connect with each other and the community. They also shared what they were doing to keep hope alive during a trying time.

Although we were back (limited) in person for worship at Easter, The Carillon Bells, The Celebration Choir, The Cornerstone Band, and Judy Blomgren all recorded some Easter music for worship so we could make it as grand as possible! Dave Mantini and Kari Sundstrom added their brass to these recordings.

By September the Choir and the Bells were able to get together to rehearse and play live in person with each other. They have followed safety precautions as determined by the Health Advisory Team and are so glad to be able to bring their music to a live congregation.

The Brooklyn United Methodist Big Band was able to play live in worship on November 21. Director Dave Mantini is a friend and co-worker of OSLC’s organist Judy Blomgren and the band always provides a fun experience. In fact, they were so much fun that we invited them back again for a Christmas Concert in December! It was amazing to hear a live concert again, complete with jazzy Christmas standards.

I cannot reiterate enough how immensely proud I am of the Music Staff and volunteer musicians who have stayed dedicated to the Music Department throughout this pandemic. Their consistent musical excellence brings worship to a different level and keeps a sense of community going throughout these challenging times.

Keep an eye on your emails, the website, and Facebook to stay updated with all of the different musical events coming in 2022. Thank you so much for all of your support and for letting me serve you as the Director of Music and Worship Arts at OSLC.



Amanda Heywood



Judy Blomgren

Small Group and Team Reports

Chapel, Cemetery, Columbarium

The Chapel received a \$10,000 grant from the MN Historical Society to start the foundation restoration process, it's a slow process but we continue to move forward. Approximately \$67,000 has been raised to go towards repairs.

Sixteen cemetery graves were sold this past year. The team is looking into expanding the cemetery as we only have about 100 spots left.

The pavers are in at the columbarium and some sod and seeding has been done. Lights have also been installed. This coming spring, landscaping will continue, a water fountain installed, and the Scatter Garden will be finished. Ten niches have been purchased. A huge thank you to the Hard Hats for their hard work helping the vision of the columbarium move towards completion.

CCC Team

Dinner's at 6:30

This group meets every 3rd Thursday of the month at various restaurants. Everyone is invited to join this fun group for a social night out. Watch the bulletin board for the monthly sign up sheet showing the location of that month's restaurant and location. Some of the restaurants we've met at are: Hidden Haven, Vanellis's (now closed), Pizza Ranch, Davannis's, Mallard's, Bootleggers, El Zacalo Grill & Cantina. Please join us! Any questions call Sandy Mickelson, 763-229-4984.

Fair Trade—Equal Exchange

Equal Exchange is a worker-owned co-operative. Through the co-op they transform the workplace from a traditional hierarchy of owners, management and employees into a community of owners, entrepreneurs and colleagues. Together they share the risks and rewards of building a successful, democratic enterprise dedicated to Fair Trade.

We at Our Saviour's are proud to provide coffee, tea, cocoas, olive oil and chocolates on the first Sunday of every month in the Gathering Space. Thank you Nancy Arnold for volunteering to co-chair this project in 2022.

We did not sell Fair Trade during the pandemic but are now happy to be back supporting the small farmers so they can build a better quality of life for their families and communities.

Peace,

Fran Munday

Faith & Fiction Book Group

Faith & Fiction is a book group that meets on the second Tuesday of the month to discuss literature and create connections for its participants. Originally, Faith & Fiction met in homes, however in 2021 we pivoted to Zoom meetings and outdoor or indoor meetings at Our Saviour's. Books are recommended and selected once-a-year, in December. Each meeting includes devotions and a social time after the discussion. The group has become a valued source of support and camaraderie for the over thirty current members.

Marge Nelson





Small Group and Team Reports

Fiction Addiction Book Group

We were able to meet in person most months of the past year. A couple more people joined our group in 2021. Anyone is welcome to join at anytime.

Alisa Bigelbach

Guatemala Mission Team

Casas por Cristo team builds two homes for poor in Guatemala

The year 2021 brought some firsts for the Casas por Cristo (Homes for Christ) mission. Our largest building team of 25 people was able to provide two new homes for the poor in Guatemala. After not building in 2020 due to Covid-19, this group brought determination and strength to change the lives of two families, the neighborhoods, and local Guatemala businesses.

Our Saviour's members and friends helped raise the cost of the building materials (\$10,000 each). In addition, OSLC Quilters provided handmade quilts with a "home" theme for each family, the bead ministry donated inspirational beads that were distributed in the neighborhoods, Little Dresses for Africa brightened the days for the children with new outfits for boys and girls, Beanie Babies were donated, and most importantly prayers for a safe build. Thank you.

Hard Hat Ministry

This past year the Hard Hats celebrated their 20th anniversary. Since our beginning in 2000 the Hard Hat group ministry meets every Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon for coffee, devotions, fellowship, and general maintenance tasks for the church. The only exception to meeting weekly over the past 20 years occurred when we stopped because of the COVID closure for OSLC. The group welcomes people of all ages to enjoy fellowship and service. Over the years the Hard Hat group has grown from our eight original members to over thirty-five active members today.

The growing number of members bringing an expanding variety of skills and knowledge has enabled the Hard Hats to accept more challenging tasks. Although the group's focus over the years is working on the church properties, we have also worked in the community on projects for Habitat for Humanity, local schools and people in need. We are especially proud of several of the major projects we have completed at OSLC. This past year the Hard Hats finished laying the pavers at the columbarium.

The Hard Hats recognize the need for OSLC to consider some major maintenance projects such as replacing some of the carpeting, repairing the north parking lot, replacing one of the roof-top heating/air conditioning units, repairing the bell tower ringing system, to name some of the needs. These projects are outside of Hard Hat abilities, so we have decided to contribute a major portion of the funds we have received from memorials and gifts to act as an incentive to initiate these projects.

All the funds the Hard Hats raise each year from memorials, contributions and sales of pop and crafts are spent on church maintenance projects. Projects assumed and funded by the Hard Hats during 2020 were:

- Completing the conversion of the church emergency lighting to LED
- Repairing and expanding the irrigation system

- Maintaining the fountain in the Meditation Garden
- Pruning, replacing and removing dead and dying trees
- Maintaining the church grounds by mowing and weed whipping
- Insulating the ceiling in the Lagringshus
- Painting and repairing offices and classrooms
- Doing spring and fall cleanup at the Chapel
- Repairing the fence at the Chapel
- Putting up and taking down outdoor Christmas lights
- Making improvements to the ramp for the handicapped at the Chapel
- Assisting with event setups
- Putting up and taking down snow fence.
- Landscaping, fertilizing and seeding the area around the columbarium
- Moving evergreen trees
- Completing the installation of pavers at the Columbarium
- Painting the light pole bases and curbing
- Spraying for weeds around the church lawn
- Cleaning and maintaining the air handlers on the roof of the church
- Patching potholes in the driveway and parking lot
- Installing new heat-tapes on the roof
- Repairing storm-damaged metal flashing on the church roof
- Repairing and maintaining snowblowers, mowers, and weed whips
- Repairing, replacing and maintaining the bluebird houses on the church property.
- Sealing corners and seams on the church roof.

This list does not cover all the things the Hard Hats have done over the past year, but it is representative of the things we do for the church and for our community. We thank the congregation for supporting the Hard Hats throughout the year. Without your gifts we would not be able to continue providing additional maintenance and “wished for extras” for the church.

Little Dresses for Africa (LDFA)

This mission group consists of a very dedicated group of sewers who are committed to the mission of dressing little girls in need all over the world. We did not meet in person this last year but we have been busy sewing in our own homes. In April 2021 we (meaning the partnership between OSLC and Glen Cary Lutheran) shipped a total of 367 dresses. Plus, in December we sent 36 dresses along with the OSLC mission group to Guatemala.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank not only the sewers, but all those who have donated to our cause, whether in the form of supplies or a monetary donation. We appreciate your support very much.

If anyone has any questions concerning LDFA, please contact me at 651-462-1573.

God's Peace,

Betty Gabrick

Meditation Garden

The Meditation Garden Team began the gardens at 19001 Jackson Street NE prior to the church being built. The mission of the gardens was to create a space that was quiet for meditation, that would invite nature and be low maintenance. After 20 years we believe that this has been achieved. As we move forward in 2022 we will be brainstorming new ways to maintain the gardens.





Small Group and Team Reports

Motorcycle Ministry

The riders of Our Saviour's Motorcycle Ministry come from many of the other ministries at Our Saviour's. Most are members of Our Saviour's, and many riders are friends, neighbors, and family of the members of Our Saviour's Church. We all share common passions; traveling throughout Minnesota and neighboring states, eating and visiting various attractions. On occasion we have members join us by car if they are unable to a ride motorcycle.

With things opening more this year we did do a couple of scheduled Sunday and evening dinner rides per month. For the Blessing of the Bikes, we picked a day and held it even though the day started out raining. Riders that came early just brought their keys to be blessed. For our end of the year September ride, we tried a new location and went to Lanesboro. Riders had a choice to stay in a lodge room or camp. It was a beautiful area and we had great weather. We plan to go back next year.

We also welcomed two new riders to our group this year and sadly had to say a final good bye to one of our riders in December who has been a part of our group since 2010.

This next year we are hoping to find a new charity to raise funds for. As in the past, we are partial to raising funds that help children. We continue to support other ministries at OSLC and will hopefully do a few more weekday, Sunday, and weekend trips.

The Riders of Our Saviour's are involved in many other ministries at Our Saviour's. You can see us parking cars, doing hospitality, ushering, working at the blood drive, working with Hard Hats and working as part of the Emergency Response Team (ERT).

Our goal for the upcoming year are to be supportive to Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, the other ministries of Our Saviour's, the community, and community events. We will continue to welcome anyone that would like to join us, whether from Our Saviour's or another part of the community, and whether they have a motorcycle or not. All will be welcomed with open arms.

Prayer Bead Ministry

Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always. 1 Chronicles 16:11 (NIV)

The OSLC Bead Ministry has, with limited meetings, continued to make prayer beads for our congregation during 2021. Our first group meeting was in August after many months of no physical contact. We still feel God's hand directing us to gather when it is reasonable and reach out with a Voice of Hope and blessing through our prayer beads.

As a part of our planning process we pray for God's help in designing our beaded items, and wisdom in creating the inserts we distribute with them. We pray over the beads after we have made them, asking for everyone who receives the prayer beads to find hope, peace, and comfort. In the past year, we have made and packaged a number of "types" of beads:

- Not to Worry ("regular" prayer beads)
- Dragonfly (for those grieving)
- First Communion
- Confirmation
- Blessing of the Bicycles
- Back to School
- Hard Hats 20th Anniversary

- Blue Christmas
- Mission trip to Guatemala

The Prayer Bead Ministry has been supported financially through Thrivent Action Team Grants, the OSLC Motorcycle Ministry, and generous monetary donations from members of our congregation. We give thanks for this financial support.

When we are able to make beads as a group, meeting information will be published in the *Seeds of Faith* calendar, the *Happenings*, and on the announcement slides during worship services. We are currently not soliciting new members to our ministry, as the current transmission rates of the Coronavirus makes teaching our craft to new members unsafe. We train new members side-by-side and “hand’s on.” When we met these past few months, we each sat at a separate table in the Gathering Space, self-isolating and using masks as necessary. We plan for a time when we will, again, be able to safely invite others to be a part of God's love through beading with us! Making prayer beads as a Ministry Team brings the rewards of love and laughter, companionship, friendship, and shared prayer. We look forward to joining together again!

We pray you will continue to find strength and perseverance in the presence of our almighty God.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NIV)

Blessings to you!

Karen Bush and Eileen Stoffels, OSLC Prayer Bead Ministry Co-coordinators

Property Team

This year a Property Team was formed consisting of two Hard Hats members, two congregational members and one staff person. The team was tasked with determining the areas of the church and property in immediate need of attention. The team looked into all these areas and came up with a prioritized list of importance.

- Replace 2 Roof Top Units that supply heating and cooling to the Worship Space, Sacristy and Pipe Organ room.
- New carpet for a large portion of the church.
- Remove and replace the asphalt in the north parking lot.

After a long process, two new rooftop units have been installed. The team is in the process of getting quotes for new carpeting in areas where needed. The team has also had a professional survey the parking lots and provide recommendations for what repairs are needed.

Last year our sign on the corner of Jackson St. and Viking Blvd was hit by a vehicle. The sign was considered totaled. Replacement was discussed and the Property Team recommended that it be replaced with a digital sign. With lots of work from the team, sub team and a generous donation, OSLC now has a new beautiful digital sign.

Many thanks to the Hard Hats for their continued hard work and devotion to OSLC which keeps down costly repairs, keeps the lawns looking beautiful, and fulfills all the tasks that staff ask them to help with.

God Bless

Property Team





Small Group and Team Reports

Pub Theology

Pub Theology is a place to dive into topics involving faith, life events, or just being together for good food and conversation. Meeting the second Monday of every month at Hidden Haven, we invite you to join us.

We didn't meet during the pandemic but are happy to be back now.

Peace,
Fran Munday & Glenn Allenspach – Co-Chair

Quilting Blocks in Stages

If Covid was good for anything it was good for quilting. We started the year meeting virtually. We actually gained some members during that time. Our roster is the highest its ever been with 16 in our group. Production has been up with quilts going to: Cedar Creek Senior Living, The Baby Blanket, graduation and retirement gifts. We are glad that the building is back open and continue to meet as a group on the first and third Tuesday.

We have challenged ourselves by applying for and being accepted to have our quilts featured in an art show at The Halberg Center for the Arts in Wyoming, MN, in June. Mark your calendars: opening night will be Thurs., June 23. The show will run for three weeks.

Seasoned Adult Ministry (SAM)

The purpose of SAM is to create opportunities to make new friends and strengthen existing friendships. SAM has had it's wings clipped this past year because of the pandemic. In July, we gathered at Booster Park to sip lemonade and see each other in-person. December was the annual Christmas potluck lunch. Mark your calendar for July 20, 2022, when SAM will be going to the Guthrie Theater to see *Emma*.

Stamping Ministry

Our group meets once-a-month on alternating Friday evenings or Saturday mornings throughout the year. Please contact Cheryl Anderson at 763-434-9457, for an updated schedule or any questions you may have.

From May through December, our group was very happy to be back selling cards. We hosted a Sunday Table Sale and served Hospitality after church services, donated a basket to CYF auction, donated monies to the Guatemala Mission Trip, and to the General Fund.

Thank you to all those who support Stamping Ministry and supplies that have been donated to our ministry.

Stewardship Team

The Stewardship Team was very active this year even during the pandemic. The Team generally meets the second Tuesday of each month. Below are the initiatives that were implemented in 2021:

In March, with the assistance of Thrivent and Jason Moehring, we offered the Lifetime Gift workshop. This workshop was open to all ages and was designed to help people gather important information that loved ones would need in case one became incapacitated for a period of time or upon the death of a loved one. A tool was provided to give peace of mind if either of the above events were to occur and included topics like: life summary, pet information, location of keys, codes, medical history, location of important paper, financial information and passwords. Participants found the information provided to be very helpful.

Stewardship journey testimonies were periodically included in our services in which members of the church would share what stewardship was to them, their own stewardship journey and how stewardship had impacted their life

On Sunday, October 3rd we celebrated Gratitude Sunday during which members listed three things on post-it notes that they were grateful for. They then attached their responses to easels in the Gathering Space. We did the same activity with our youth on a Wednesday night. These responses were then shared at a subsequent Sunday and Wednesday service. These responses clearly revealed that we at OSLC have much to be grateful for.

Our last initiative of 2021 was the implementation of a Consecration Sunday program in which we approached financial stewardship from a biblical perspective. In this approach we as a church focused on seeing financial contributions as a way help us grow spiritually in our relationship with God by supporting our church's mission and ministry through giving a percentage of our income. Consecration Sunday had month-long activities which included members of the congregation sharing their thoughts about what giving to the church means to them, as well as a sermon by Pastor Kiri. Consecration Sunday concluded on October 17th with a wonderful and moving message by Pastor Andy Romstad of Cambridge Lutheran Church. During worship members came forward and deposited their Estimate of Giving cards in special boxes. Over 100 commitment cards were received. Consecration Sunday ended with a high-quality box lunch to go.

Tree of Life Library

The Tree of Library Team began meeting monthly again in the Fall of 2021. Not unexpectedly, the library has had very little use during Covid. We are in the process of finalizing a survey that will be used to gather input from the congregation regarding their knowledge, impressions and use of the Tree of Life Library. We also made the decision to no longer accept used books to put in the Library. The Team wants to thank those who have donated used materials in the past.

We are always looking for new members of all ages. If you are interested in joining the Tree of Life Library Team, please contact Jan Green, in the church office.

Blessings

Dawn Bokelmann, Dave Eberhardt, Donna Nelson and Jo Rohady

Women's Retreat

With the challenges of Covid, no Women's Retreat was held in 2021. We are looking forward to 2022 and are planning to have a Women's Retreat in the coming year!





Ministry Partners

Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp

Congregational Report 2021 Thank you for being a Partner Congregation! We've nearly made it through another pandemic year! I remain grateful and inspired by the work and support of so many people who've continued to rally around this ministry in order that others should experience fellowship in community and come to know Jesus in these beautiful outdoor spaces. We couldn't have made it without the help from donors, prayer warriors, government pandemic programs, retreat guests, day visitors, campers, lively young adult summer staff, our local business banking and CPA offices, our Polk and Cook County health departments, congregations, and you! Special thanks goes out to our staff who exhibit flexibility and creativity as we continue to adapt to the changing Covid landscape.

2021 was challenging, but filled with bright spots. I expect much of the same for 2022 – exciting ministry opportunities, uncertainties about our participant numbers, continued health and safety Covid protocols, challenging budget needs, dynamic initiatives, challenging seasonal staff hiring environment, and more. We are poised to welcome these challenges and opportunities with grace, wisdom, humility and joy! We have good work to do.

Summer 2021 We were so grateful to bring back summer camp at all three of our sites with strong Covid protocols in place. Due to the nature of the way groups move in and out, Wilderness was able to run canoe trips at their normal level. Wapo and Ox Lake reduced camper capacity to about 40-44% and thankfully an unusually dry summer allowed us to do all normal camp activities outside – including meals. Our summer staff was outstanding! Their incredible level of energy and ability to be flexible gave kids a camp experience that felt “normal”. Camp was much needed after a year into the pandemic and we expect this feeling to continue into 2022.

Retreats and Events in 2021 Keeping strong Covid protocols in place we were able to host retreat groups at Wapo and Wilderness this fall and into the winter months. Rigorous cleaning and disinfecting protocols continue at all sites as well as masking in public areas. Special events continued with an adapted approach for the Memorial Day Breakfast and Advent on the Go but we were able to run a full Boat-in Worship season and Wapo golf tournament.

New Faces We welcomed Liz Bowman on Oct 18, 2021 as our Director of Food Services at Wapo and Eric Klein on Nov 1, 2021. Eric joins the program team with responsibilities for Wapo Seeds, Boat-In, Family Camp, and programmed retreats.

Wilderness Give to the Max Wilderness Canoe Base received a \$40,000 gift match for the GiveMN Give to the Max day. On November 18th, friends of WCB met that match, raising just over \$80,000 in one day for Wilderness Canoe Base.

The Gather Campaign for a new Dining Hall and Hospitality Center Our Site and Facilities crew will be finishing up Phase 1 of the Gather project this winter while development staff and campaign committee have begun feasibility interviews to determine the scope of Phase 2 to finish the project. We are incredibly grateful for the support we have received to be able to complete phase 1 with the funds we had already raised. Now as we live into this building and determine the needs for finishing the project, we are excited to make final plans in 2022 for what the completed building will look like. Please prayerfully consider how you might be able to financially support this important project as we continue to raise funds for Phase 2. See building progress at lakewapo.org.

Strategic Plan Initiative. This fall we began Strategic Initiative work with the Joshua Group. We launched a camp impact survey and started individual interviews with staff, Board, and friends of the organization. This strategic work will help us be aligned for meaningful and transformative ministry in an ever-changing ministry landscape.

Our theme for 2022 is “Take Hold” John 16:33 says, “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” This summer we will explore what it means for roots of faith to take hold of the soil around us, as the soil takes hold of us. We know Jesus changed everything when he conquered the world for all. He gives us his peace even when the world gives us trouble, and helps us to see how God's love changed everything for all people. Join us as we Take Hold of this promise.

We look ahead with eager anticipation and a sure sense of hope.

Meals On Wheels

Here is the review of 2021. Oh, what a year it has been. We started out the year, full force in the COVID era.

January and February, we were still delivering twice a week.

In March we went to a Monday—Wednesday—Friday delivery cycle.

Then in June we started up Monday—Friday deliveries when we acquired the Southern Anoka County program.

We took a pause in mid-September and went back to a Monday—Wednesday—Friday delivery cycle. This was due to an increase of COVID positives or scares with the drivers. During this time we focused on reaching out and gathering more community volunteers to build up a better safety net when drivers are not able to drive.

The week after Thanksgiving, we went back to a Monday—Friday delivery cycle. It is better for the clients but the past month in December has been a challenge in more ways than one. Between COVID and the flu with staff and drivers it has been an absolute miracle that we are still able to keep up with the demand.

We ended 2021 as healthy as we can and are grateful for all the support you have given us throughout the year.

Year in Review:

- Total Meals Served: 93,777
- Clients: 840
- New Clients: 387
- Number of Routes: 7,392
- Now our total square miles of the area that we serve is 454

Another highlight is we have been working on a phone app to assist the drivers. The testing has gone well. There are some details that we can tweak. So sometime in 2022 this should become an option.

We are still learning, COVID funding is winding down, looks like it will be here through March 31, 2021. More clients are coming, the need is great. Unity Hospital has been amazing in making sure that we have meals to serve. Our staff has gone above and beyond to ensure meals go out. Then our drivers, we are so blessed.

Sincerely,

Sue Patchen, Program Director, Impact Services – Meals on Wheels





Nominee Mini Bios

Executive Team—1-year term

President: Judy Schaubach

Vice President: Mark Kramm

Secretary: Priscilla Anderson

Treasurer: David Anderson

Congregation Council—1-year term

Cindy Paulson

Congregation Council—3-year term

Dave Eberhardt

Tom Olson

Audit Team—3-year term

Doug Paulson

Jerry Schaubach

Cemetery-Chapel Team—1-year term

Cindy Kallestad

Cemetery-Chapel Team—2-year term

Ron Johnson

Cemetery-Chapel Team—3-year term

Mark Boyum

Merlyn Landborg

Endowment Team—2-year term

Jo Rohady

Endowment Team—3-year term

Kay Hunter

Fran Wohlenhaus-Munday

Human Resources Team—2-year term

Nancy Arnold

Wendy Warren

Nominating Team—1-year term

Binie Bertils

Barbara Danger

Betty Gabrick

Jan Green

Cindy Mowan

Synod Assembly Delegates—1-year term

Adult Delegates (2 men, 2 women, 1 either gender)

Joyce Finch

Michael Finch

Cindy Paulson

Synod Assembly Delegates—1-year term

Youth Delegate (1 high school-age youth)

Mikkel Paulson





Nominee Mini Bios



President's Report

Message from Council President

Sometimes I long for the good old days when life was simple. I recall back to January 2020, when I first stepped into the role of Council President, and I thought the biggest challenge our congregation had ahead of us was selecting a new Senior Pastor.

Praise God we were led to the right person for the job! A leader who, for the past year, has led us through challenge after challenge with faith, grace, wisdom, and humor.

So here we are, standing on the other side (mid-point? near-the-end point?) of a pandemic that has changed the world. It has changed Our Saviour's too. And I/we can mourn the past, or we can take stock and look to the future.

From where I stand, I see a congregation poised for the future. First and foremost, we know that we are in good hands. Jesus, the great I AM. He is the bread of life. He is the light of the world. He is the way. So long as we follow Him, we have everything we need.

Second, we have amazing copilots in Pastors Kiri and Maria. With God at the helm and the support of the congregation, these two faithful servants can and will lead us right where God wants us to be.

Third, we have a staff that never quits. Each day they show up. They do everything that needs doing, and more. So. Much. More. And they make it look so natural that it's easy to forget how hard they're working.

Fourth, we have incredible volunteers, people who step up and do whatever is asked, whatever is needed. Whether that is repairing our building, vacuuming, teaching our children, answering phones, playing guitar, providing medical advice, or any number of the hundreds of ways people in our congregation pitch in. They're the Martha's in our midst.

Finally, among this group of leaders and staff and volunteers, we have visionaries, people who will lead us into the future. People who will listen, study, and discern. The needs are great in our world and in our neighborhood. I am confident that we, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church of East Bethel, will move purposefully into the future, being the hands, feet, and voice of Him who sent us. I am excited for the journey.

Peace,

Nancy Arnold



Congregational Annual Meeting Minutes

Our Saviour's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Draft Minutes of the Sunday, January 31, 2021, Congregational Annual Meeting

1. Announcements prior to start of the meeting – Nancy Arnold: Good morning to everyone. We are getting close to having everyone logged in and counted and are almost ready to begin. Thank you for your patience.
2. The meeting was **called to order** at 11:31 A.M. by President Nancy Arnold
3. This is our first ever congregational meeting held in person and electronically via Zoom. Nancy shared information of how this process will proceed.
4. **Opening prayer** was led by Pastor Kiri Solberg.
5. **Appointment meeting roles:** Karen Mickelson was appointed recording secretary for this meeting. Dennis Sackreiter was appointed meeting parliamentarian. And Jan Green, Lisa Rykken Kastler and Leisha Tays were appointed as meeting tellers. Judy Schaubach was appointed meeting parliamentarian.
6. **Quorum** was met with 107 congregational members in attendance in person and electronically.
7. **Rules of Order**
Nancy Arnold reviewed the following Rules of Order:
 - Members must be recognized by the Chair before speaking.
 - All motions must be seconded before they are debated.
 - All motions that are more than five (5) words long must be submitted in writing. Once the motion has been made and seconded, the maker of the motion will be allowed to speak first.
 - Members are asked to limit their speaking to no longer than two (2) minutes per speech. Members may speak more than once on the same subject or motion, but are asked to yield to those wishing to speak for the first time. (This two-minute time limitation does not apply to those making presentations.)
 - All debate should be directed through the Chair, including questions to another member.
8. **Approval of January 26, 2020 Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes:**
A motion was requested to approve the minutes for the January 26, 2020 Annual Congregation Meeting as printed in the annual report on pages 29-31. The motion was made by Tom Olson and seconded by Jason Moehring. MOTION CARRIED
9. **Approval of October 18, 2020 Special Congregational Meeting Minutes:**
A motion was requested to approve the minutes for the October 18, 2020 Special Congregational Meeting as printed in the Annual Report on page 32. The motion was made by Jason Moehring and seconded by Tom Olson. MOTION CARRIED
10. **Vote on Proposed Constitutional Changes Recommended by Council**
Tom Olson made the motion to adopt the constitution and bylaw changes as presented in the detailed handout on Our Saviour's website. Jason Moehring seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED
11. **Election of Officers, Council, and Committee Members:**
 - Nancy Arnold thanked all the outgoing elected officers, council and team members:
Audit: Dave Anderson
Cemetery-Chapel: Gary Larson
Council: Jim Jerylo, Karen Schrecongost

Endowment: Maggie Latvala

Human Resources: Kim Iverson

Nominating: Jan Green, Jan Berqual, Terry Kolodjski, Dino Perfetti, Becky Beck

Officers:

Secretary: Karen Mickelson

Treasurer: Jason Moehring

Nancy Arnold presented the Nominating Committee's slate of candidates. Bios of most of the candidates can be found in the Annual Report.

Nancy Arnold read the names of nominees for each position and asked if there were any additional nominations from the floor:

- Congregation President (1-year term): Nancy Arnold
- Congregation Vice President (1-year term): Tom Olson
- Congregation Secretary (1-year term): Priscilla Anderson
- Congregation Treasurer (1-year term): Dave Anderson
- Church Council (3-year term): Jason Moehring and Karen Mickelson
- Audit Team (3-year term): Karen Moehring and Maggie Latvala
- Cemetery-Chapel Team (3-year term): Dan Hallberg and an additional opening
- Endowment Team (3-year term): Peder Sannerud
- Human Resources Team (3-year term): Al Beck and Sherry Allenspach
- Nominating Team (1-year term): Ellen Kramm, Jill Holritz Bjornson, Jo Rohady, Sandy Mickelson, and Alice Guse
- Synod Assembly (3 females, 3 males, and 1 youth) Scott Patron (m), Joe Neuberger (m)
Earl Warren (m), Jan Bovee (f), Wendy Warren (f),
Cheri Stockinger (f) and Jenna Stockinger (y)

Nancy Arnold requested a motion to close the ballot and approve the nomination of new candidates. Motion was made by Jason Moehring and seconded by Tom Olson.

Having no contested positions, the congregation approved, on a single voice vote, the election of all persons on the ballot. MOTION CARRIED.

All elected will be installed in worship next Sunday. And new terms start on February 1, 2021.

12. Pastor's and Deacon's Reports:

- Pastor Kiri Solberg shared she is looking forward to the future of the congregation.
- Pastor Maria Pedersen reiterated how we have gone through seven different ways of worship in the past year.
- Deacon Glenndy Ose shared how 2020 was a huge challenge. Thanks to the Bible and Book Studies. Preschool has been full. And thank you to the congregation for being the best of my work life.

13. Auditor's Report:

Brad Simenson presented the report of the Audit Team. Brad reported that all is in good order. Tom Olson made a motion to accept the auditor's report. The motion was seconded by Jason Moehring. MOTION CARRIED

14. Treasurer's Report

Jason Moehring presented the treasurer's report. He thanked the staff and financial team for all they

Congregational Annual Meeting Minutes

do. The question for 2021 is “how would we move forward, not knowing what to expect.” Thank you to the congregation for your consistent giving. We ended the year with \$262,822 in the bank. We have approval from the Irene Anderson estate to repay dollars owed to the dedicated funds account and built a reserve received from another gift for debt reduction and endowment.

Highlights for the year – we had three opportunities:

- PPP—Payroll Protection Program: Received \$134,513 loan for payroll
- Mortgage—received a 2 month interest only opportunity, saving \$13,647
- Preschool received grants in the amount of \$21,250

We are suggesting the money left over be shifted to budget by putting 10% income in the reserve for months of low giving. The plan would be to repay this amount at the end of the year. We have added a Property/Maintenance account to take care of things needing to be replaced on the building. We have \$159,924 in this account.

Nancy Arnold requested a motion to be made to approve the Treasurer’s Report. Tom Olson made the motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report and was seconded by Karen Mickelson.

14. 2021 Proposed Budget:

Tom Olson moved to approve the 2021 budget as presented on page 35 of the Annual Report. This motion was seconded by Karen Mickelson.

Jason Moehring spoke to the motion, explaining these main points:

- **Giving Trends:** Feel we are in another transition year. The challenge of last year was income and benefits. Feel this year is different.
- **Realistic Budget:** Income has gone up. We are getting gifts. We received a large gift (not income).
- **Benevolence:** The 2021 plan is to pay \$40,000 for Benevolence to ELCA.
- **Personnel:** changes have happened leading to savings.

Following questions and discussion, the motion to approve the budget was passed by the congregation. MOTION CARRIED.

15. New Business:

- **Worship – back in person:** Will we be going back in person anytime soon? As soon as we can safely do so. Thank you for your flexibility.
- **Thank you to the staff, council, congregation and volunteers for all that you do.**

16. Prayer: Deacon Glenndy Ose lead us in prayer.

17. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:31 p.m., January 26, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Mickelson

Appointed Secretary

Treasurer's Report

2021 started off with the Finance Team, Treasurer Jason Moehring, and Pastor Kiri meeting in the new normal of “Zoom meetings” and “socially distant meetings.” A budget very similar to the previous year was presented and adopted by the council and the congregation at the 2021 annual meeting.

As we moved through the 2021 year our monthly offering income followed our previous trends of being below our budgeted amounts. We used some of our reserve funds and then had some months that actually made budget. We hit a couple of low-income months, but still stayed current in our cash flow. Part of this was due to the fact that we had not filled some staffing positions through the year, staff keeping expenses down and Preschool grant dollars of \$37,924.00 for the 2021 school year, which helped with the on-going budget. We also welcomed our new bookkeeper in September, Beth Graham. As we looked to close out the 2021 year, it was looking like it was going to fall below our intended budget. But then the month of December arrived with the generous gifts from you, our members. Because of your generosity, we are pleased that we exceeded our yearly income budget. Thanks be to God and to you!

Because of some previous large donations in 2020, we were able to take care of some larger church updates on the roof top unit replacements and we are planning more of this type of work in and around our church in 2022. Some of these will be carpeting and other maintenance items. We did a complete refinance of the church mortgage with Thrivent Financial and will experience some very significant savings over the course of our loan.

With a number of larger donations and a correction made in the dedicated funds account we have increased our reserve account dollars and our current combined bank accounts to over \$622,000.00

A huge thank you to the Finance Team members: Pastor Kiri, Kim Anderson, Jason Moehring, Beth Graham, Steve Rozek, and myself. Special thanks to Beth and Steve as they continue to work through our accounting system changes in 2022. Thank you to Pastor Kiri for her engagement with our church finances.

Thanks to the congregation for your continued support and your generosity throughout 2021 and into 2022!

Treasurer, David Anderson



Audit Team Report

Report for fiscal year ending December 31, 2021
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

Audit Committee Members present:

- Maggie Latvala, Jerry Ryding, Karen Moehring, Bradley Simenson

The Audit Committee reviewed the income and expense for the General Fund Statement and accompanying bank statements; balanced the bank reports with the Dedicated Fund account; studied year-end bank statements for the Reserve Fund, Endowment Fund, Property Maintenance account; and, reviewed the Cemetery Fund investment balances.

The Audit Committee performed the following tasks:

- Checked the procedure for handling income and donations to ensure internal control follows "best practices."
- Performed spot checks regarding payment of invoices and purchase orders to determine if internal control processes in compliance with church operating procedure.
- Ensured authorized signatures on checks.
- Ensured personnel signing checks have been designated.
- Spot verify offering report against bank statement deposits.
- Found the procedure for offerings collected, counted and deposited judicious.
- Verified State and Federal Payroll tax reports.
- Reviewed mortgage reports.

General Fund Statement; Dedicated Funds Statement; Reserve Fund Account, Endowment Fund, Property Maintenance Account, Cemetery Fund:

In the opinion of the Audit Committee the income and expense account for the General Fund Statement, the Dedicated Funds Statement, the Cemetery Fund, Endowment Fund year-end balance, Property Maintenance year-end balance, and the Reserve Fund Account presents fairly the financial position of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2021.

Process Improvement:

The Audit Committee encourages the church's accounting staff to continue to implement improvements to the church's accounting software to ensure a seamless reconciliation with bank statements.

Other:

Due diligence was performed for the following other church matters.

- Insurance coverage reviewed and video evidence of assets confirmed by staff.
- Church in compliance with Loan Covenants.
- The Legal documents to be stored in fire-proof cabinet.
- Workman's compensation is current.
- Spot verified deposit receipts balance with bank statements.

Proposed Budget 1/1/2022-12/31/2022

	Budget 2021	Actual for 12/31/2021	Proposed 2022	Possible Changes/ Notes
Income				
Envelopes/Planned Giving	990,047	949,999		
Visitor & Cash Giving	20,158	5,138		
Holidays	43,441	40,089		
Health Ins Outside Gift 2021	0			
Offering Total:	1,053,646	995,226	1,005,178	1% increase over 2021 actual
Benevolence				
Global Outreach		11,941	0	
Local Outreach		1,600	0	
Social Justice	0	16,050	0	
Stewardship	0	1,696	0	
Fellowship	1,000	0	0	
Church Council	0	0	0	
Preschool	40,000	78,607	44,830	Actual for 2021 incl. \$37,924 in grants
Children's Ministry(birth-Gr5)	3,200	4,095	3,200	
Confirmation (Gr 6 - 8)	2,000	2,854	2,500	
Youth (Gr 9 - 12)	400	880	500	
Adult Ministries	0	119	100	
Worship	4,000	1,261	0	
Music	0	1,561	0	
Operations	12,000	6,611	5,500	
Reserve			85,000	Carryover from 2021

Total	1,116,246	1,122,501	1,146,808	
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	Budget 2021	Actual for 12/31/2021	Proposed 2022	
Expense				
Benevolence	40,000	40,000	45,000	4.5% of offering total
Global Outreach	1,500	11,591	1,500	
Stewardship	3,500	2,825	3,500	
Worship	5,960	7,147	7,820	
Music	8,325	10,009	9,700	
Preschool	4,000	5,490	4,285	
CYF Ministry			5,700	CYF total = \$21650
Children's Ministry (birth - Gr 5)	7,670	2,616	4,900	
Confirmation (Gr 6 - 8)	8,450	3,816	4,750	
Youth (Gr 9 - 12)	2,500	958	6,300	
Adult Ministries	800	894	1,000	
Local Outreach/Social Justice	2,400	16,802	3,000	
Church Council/Staff development	3,300	1,159	7,000	
Fellowship	1,000		3,500	
Property - Maint. & Utilities	66,000	65,362	71,800	
Mortgage	163,764	148,081	140,820	Refinanced Loan
Operations	56,610	60,643	62,000	
Personnel	727,735	659,418	757,544	
Workers Comp Ins	5,860	6,356	6,606	
Property Maint Account	6,872			

Total	1,116,246	1,043,167	1,146,725	
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Net Result	0	79,334	83	
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Year-end Income and Expense Summary

<u>Description of Account</u>	<u>2021 Budget</u>	<u>Actual YTD 2021</u>	<u>Variance to Budget</u>
INCOME			
Contributions	990,047.00	949,999.00	(40,048.00)
Visitor/Cash	20,158.00	5,138.00	(15,020.00)
Holidays	43,441.00	40,089.00	(3,352.00)
	1,058,646.00	995,226.00	(58,420.00)
Benevolence/Mission	-	-	-
Global Outreach	-	11,941.00	11,941.00
Local Outreach	-	1,600.00	1,600.00
Social Justice	-	16,050.00	16,050.00
Stewardship	-	1,696.00	1,696.00
Fellowship	-	-	-
Church Council	-	-	-
Preschool	40,000.00	78,607.00	38,607.00
Childrens's Ministry	3,200.00	4,095.00	895.00
Confirmation (Gr 6-8)	2,000.00	2,854.00	854.00
Youth (Gr 9-12)	400.00	880.00	480.00
Adult Ministries	-	119.00	119.00
Worship	-	1,261.00	1,261.00
Music	-	1,561.00	1,561.00
Operations	12,000.00	6,611.00	(5,389.00)
Total Income	\$ 1,116,246.00	\$ 1,122,501.00	11,255.00
EXPENSES			-
Benevolence/Mission	40,000.00	40,000.00	-
Global Outreach	1,500.00	11,591.00	10,091.00
Property Maint. (Dedicated)	6,872.00	-	(6,872.00)
Stewardship	3,500.00	2,825.00	(675.00)
Worship	5,960.00	7,147.00	1,187.00
Music	8,325.00	10,009.00	1,684.00
Preschool	4,000.00	5,490.00	1,490.00
Childrens's Ministry	7,670.00	2,616.00	(5,054.00)
Confirmation (Gr 6-8)	8,450.00	3,816.00	(4,634.00)
Youth (Gr 9-12)	2,500.00	958.00	(1,542.00)
Adult Ministries	800.00	894.00	94.00
Local Outreach/Social Justice	2,400.00	16,802.00	14,402.00
Church Council/Staff Development	3,300.00	1,159.00	(2,141.00)
Fellowship	1000.00	-	-
Property - Maint. & Utilities	66,000.00	65,362.00	(638.00)
Mortgage	163,764.00	148,081.00	(15,683.00)
Operations	56,610.00	60,643.00	4,033.00
Personnel	727,735.00	659,418.00	(68,317.00)
Work Comp	5,860.00	6,356.00	496.00
Total Expense	\$ 1,116,246.00	\$ 1,043,167.00	\$ (72,079.00)
Net		\$ 79,334.00	

Dedicated Funds 2021

		Jan 1, 2021	Income	Expenses	Dec 31, 2021
Dedicated Fund Name					
Altar Guild	630	\$ 836.57	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 836.57
Banners & Signs	665	\$ 3,974.78	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,974.78
Befrienders Ministry	648	\$ 816.96		\$ 8.55	\$ 808.41
Bibles	669	\$ 438.61	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 438.61
Building - Phase II	637	\$ 6,624.30	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,624.30
Building Maint/Repairs	637	\$ 1.94	\$ 25,557.50	\$ 26,095.33	\$ (535.89)
Camp Scholarships/CYF	709	\$ 6,134.91	\$ 1,141.80	\$ 1,360.89	\$ 5,915.82
Chapel Restoration	651	\$ 57,945.03	\$ 15,432.00	\$ 6,676.36	\$ 66,700.67
CM Christian Education	653	\$ 4,096.09	\$ -	\$ 110.04	\$ 3,986.05
Columbarium	632	\$ 4,176.51	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 5,533.74	\$ 1,642.77
Concerts/Musicals	640	\$ 4,709.90	\$ 1,895.25	\$ 2,134.74	\$ 4,470.41
Debt Reduction	670	\$ -	\$ 20,385.20	\$ 19,300.20	\$ 1,085.00
Discretionary Fund	652	\$ 2,106.39	\$ 1,003.35	\$ 1,481.91	\$ 1,627.83
Drama Ministry	671	\$ 1,722.00	\$ -	\$ 48.33	\$ 1,673.67
Driveway Parking Lot	668	\$ 6,077.86	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,077.86
ELCA Nat'l Gathering	708	\$ -	\$ 2,352.25	\$ -	\$ 2,352.25
Grown for Love Gardening	622	\$ 467.22	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 467.22
Habitat for Humanity	661	\$ 1,892.04	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,892.04
Hard Hat Ministry	673	\$ 18,258.83	\$ 37,086.62	\$ 17,086.86	\$ 38,258.59
Handbell Choirs	624	\$ 343.38	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 343.38
Jill of All Trades	649	\$ 1,552.16	\$ -	\$ 164.80	\$ 1,387.36
Kitchen Equipment	626	\$ 500.98	\$ -	\$ 29.49	\$ 471.49
Maslan Foundation	642	\$ 9,124.27	\$ 8,320.75	\$ 12,202.20	\$ 5,242.82
Media Fund	623	\$ 410.61	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 410.61
Meditation Garden	672	\$ 3,413.23	\$ 925.32	\$ 1,088.00	\$ 3,250.55
Memorial	629	\$ 4,940.62	\$ 300.00	\$ 5,240.62	\$ -
Men's Ministry	645	\$ 985.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 985.00
Military Care	633	\$ 875.82	\$ 20.00	\$ -	\$ 895.82
Mission Guatemala	636	\$ 15,428.01	\$ 48,118.89	\$ 50,733.06	\$ 12,813.84
Motor Cycle Ministry	644	\$ 316.99	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 316.99
Nigerian Missions	675	\$ 1,319.09	\$ -	\$ 1,319.09	\$ -
Office Supplies/Equipment	657	\$ 147.60	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 147.60
Pastor Maria's CE	618	\$ 1,350.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,350.00
Quilters - AM (Thurs)	635	\$ 417.33	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 417.33
Quilting Blocks in Stages	676	\$ 856.03	\$ 301.24	\$ -	\$ 1,157.27
Prayer Bead Ministry	663	\$ 911.15	\$ 95.00	\$ -	\$ 1,006.15

Dedicated Funds 2021

		Jan 1, 2021	Income	Expenses	Dec 31, 2021
Dedicated Fund Name					
PS Fundraisers/ Scholarships	710	\$ 1,360.71	\$ 2,679.19	\$ 3,180.01	\$ 859.89
Staff Development	659	\$ 1,070.00	\$ -	\$ 527.57	\$ 542.43
Stained Glass	627	\$ 54,475.83	\$ 2,525.65	\$ -	\$ 57,001.48
Stamping Ministry	674	\$ 19.69	\$ 543.25	\$ 313.50	\$ 249.44
Technology/Security	621	\$ 1,562.17	\$ 300.00	\$ 1,210.45	\$ 651.72
Tree of Life Library	625	\$ 675.31	\$ 35.00	\$ 162.00	\$ 548.31
Vocal Choirs	643	\$ 1,208.11	\$ -	\$ 560.97	\$ 647.14
Welcoming All Neighbors	650	\$ 94.54	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 94.54
Women's Ministry	647	\$ 1,229.40	\$ 10.00	\$ -	\$ 1,239.40
Youth Christian Ed	677	\$ 10.80	\$ 60.00	\$ -	\$ 70.80
Youth Local Missions	712	\$ 2,231.53	\$ -	\$ 2,231.53	\$ -
Youth Mission Trip	707	\$ 2,554.02	\$ 11,227.13	\$ 12,631.15	\$ 1,150.00
Youth Playground	638	\$ 6,620.63	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,620.63
Youth Summer Trip Fund	656	\$ 3,639.64	\$ -	\$ 3,639.64	\$ -
		\$ 239,924.59	\$ 183,315.39	\$ 175,071.03	\$ 248,168.95

2021 Reserve Fund			
Beginning Balance	Credit	Debit	Ending Balance
\$208,033.88	\$112,879.55	\$121,409.78	\$199,503.65

2021 Property Maintenance Long Term			
Beginning Balance	Credit	Debit	Ending Balance
\$1,108.45	\$159,065.49	\$53,490.00	\$106,683.94

2020 Mortgage - Debt Reduction				
Beginning Balance	Principal Payments	Interest Payments	Additional Payments	Ending Balance
\$1,544,857.07	\$93,266.37	\$55,586.63	\$19,300.20	\$1,442,000.00
New Monthly Mortgage Payment \$11,735.00 with 2.7% Interest Rate				

Chapel/Cemetery Report

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021

CEMETERY FUND

Beginning Balance 1-1-2021

21st Century Bank - Money-Market Checking 22,930.92

Income

Memorials & Donations	2,500.00	
Cemetery Lots Sold	8,000.00	
Administrative Fees	600.00	
Thrivent for Lutherans Dividends	621.30	
ELCA Interest	529.41	
Bank Interest	14.86	
Columbarium Loan Repayment	4,660.00	
TOTAL		16,925.57

Expenses

Admin Fee to Administrator	600.00	
Mow & Trim	900.00	
Miscellaneous	25.76	
Add to ELCA Investment #01687	10,000.00	
TOTAL		<u>11,525.76</u>

Ending Balance 28,330.73

Thrivent for Lutherans Income Fund - Cash Value 12-31-2021

1544.959 shares @ 9.59 14,816.16

ELCA Mission TermSelect Investment #01687 - 12 months - 12-13-22 30,000.00

ELCA Mission TermSelect Investment #22543 - 12 months - 07-06-22 20,000.00

ELCA Mission TermSelect Investment #23078 - 12 months - 07-31-22 20,000.00

Loan to Columbarium - check #1196 dated 6/19/2017 50,000.00

Payment made April, 2019 5,000.00 45,000.00

Payment made June, 2019 2,331.00 42,669.00

Addition to Loan-check#1219 dated 6/26/2019 15,653.00 58,322.00

Payment made July, 2019 2,931.00 55,391.00

Payment made June, 2021 2,326.00 53,065.00

Payment made November, 2021 2,334.00 50,731.00

Our Saviour's Evangelical Lutheran Church
19001 Jackson St. NE
East Bethel, MN 55011
(763) 434-6117

Pastor Kiri Solberg
Pastor Maria Pederson

OSLC Statistics January 1—December 31, 2021

- The total number of members at Our Saviour's was 1664
- The total number of family units was 720
- Our Saviour's received 12 new members
- Our Saviour's performed 4 marriages
- Our Saviour's clergy officiated at 12 funerals
- We celebrated the baptism of 22 children
- 35 children were enrolled in Children's Ministry
- 70 youth were enrolled in Confirmation
- 16 youth completed their first communion class
- 21 young adults affirmed their baptism

