



A Yearly Insight into the Life of Our Savior's Lutheran Church

2011

annual report



Our Savior's Lutheran Church is a community of Christians called, washed and fed by the Spirit, sent into God's world to follow Jesus and invite others to walk in faith, hope and love.

Annual Meeting

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2012 Annual Congregational Meeting Agenda

Sunday, January 29, 2012

Welcome and Call to Order

Congregational President Ryan Nelson

Approval of Agenda

Opening Prayer and Song

Approval of Minutes of January 30, 2011 Annual Meeting and Sunday, December 4, 2011 Congregational Meeting

Reports

Council President

Blessings of 2011

Pastors' and Staff Reports

Acceptance of Committee and Team Reports

2011 Treasurer's Report

New Business

2013 Stewardship Key Leader Program, Building Renewal, and Debt Reduction

2012 Budget

Elections

Congregational Council Members

Northwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly Delegates

Nominating Committee

Representatives to Partner Ministry Boards

Other Business

Adjournment

Benediction

2011 Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes

January 30, 2011

It was determined a quorum was present.

The meeting was called to order by Congregational President Heather Rix @ 1215 hours.

CM.11.01.01. Approval of agenda. Motion to approve agenda (Becky Cusey/Rod Lezer). Motion passes.

Opening prayer and song lead by Pr. Mellum.

CM.11.01.02. Approval of minutes. Motion to approve minutes of January 2010 annual Congregational Minutes. (John Olson/ Barb Bustamante). Motion passes.

Reports:

Pr. Mellum:

Pr. Mellum provided word of thanks to outgoing council members and church staff. Pr. Mellum discussed the success of the prayer walks and wishes to continue with this opportunity. Pr. Mellum provided an update on Dr. Doug Thompson and the change this position and Dr. Doug Thompson brings to Our Savior's. Pr. Mellum discussed the need to create an environment for change. In addition, discussion on the "Re-Rooting on God's Mission" Team formation and will attend a conference on March 5, 2011 in Crookston, MN.

Pr. Loree:

Pr. Loree gave word of thanks to the congregation and to Pr. Mellum for his leadership and being a true mentor. Pr. Loree promised his report will not be as long as his sermons. Pr. Loree has achieved the Vibrant Faith Ministries Certification School along with Melissa Pickering. Pr. Loree discussed the confirmation attendance is high. Pr. Loree discussed the high number of funerals both he and Pr. Mellum have lead throughout 2010. Pr. Loree discussed establishing a foundation for a high school group.

Heather Rix:

Provided thanks to the congregation for allowing to serve as President. Rix asked the congregation to pay attention to something new at Our Savior's as we move forward.

CM.11.01.03. Motion to accept committee reports as printed (Carrie Olson/Pr. Allen). Motion passes.

Old Business

Brief discussion of debt reduction. A statement was provided with the agenda packet.

New Business

Discussion on windows on east side of building need replacement, the need of additional lighting in the sanctuary, strategic planning of the building and Keith Gunderson spoke about the need of fundraising/pledging to increase. Discussion of 2011 budget and treasurer's report. Things noted were an increase in heating expenses and staff compensation increases. Becky Cusey spoke to the necessity of giving specifically to the NW MN Synod.

CM.11.01.04. Motion of benevolence to the MN NW Synod to six (6) percent of income receipts. (Becky Cusey/Pr. Allen) Motion passes.

CM.11.01.05. Motion to approve treasurer's report (2010) (John Olson/Brian Pickering). Motion passes.

CM.11.01.06. Motion to approve 2011 amended budget (Becky Cusey/Pr. Allen). Motion passes.

C.M.11.01.07. Motion to approve creating a line of credit of approximately 10 percent of previous year revenues. The Sr. Pastor and 2011 President of the Congregation will be authorized to sign on the line of credit (Loren Mellum/Becky Cusey). Motion passes.

C.M.11.01.08. Motion to approve all positions listed in 2010 annual report (Warren Zafke/Keith Gunderson). Motion passes. The elected positions are as follows:

<i>Council</i>	Ryan Nelson, Council President Lori Spaeth, Council Vice President Lauri Buchwitz, Council Secretary Ike Morsch Becky Cusey Deb Watne Cody Zitzow
<i>Eventide Ministry Partner (1 yr term)</i>	Duane & Dianne Gilbertson
<i>Churches United Ministry Partner</i>	Barb Bustemante (2 year term), Brad Cusey (1 year term)
<i>Pathways Ministry Partner</i>	Jackie Jensen
<i>Synod Delegates</i>	Les & Vicki Harrison, Deb Hovde, Karen Mellum, Carol Peddycoart
<i>2010 Nominating Committee</i>	Tasha Haug, Jeff Nelson, Vonnie Thordal, Brian Pickering

Other Business

Recommendation to print council members names in annual report

Recommendation to print financial information in bulletins and Parish Visitor.

CM.11.01.09. Motion to adjourn (Norma Swanson/Carrie Olson). Motion passes.

2011 Congregational Meeting

December 4, 2011

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order by Congregation Church Council President Ryan Nelson with quorum met.

Reviewed the following agenda items

Current Debt

Catch the Spirit Savings Account Balance
Terms of ELCA Mission Invest Fund

Document to the left outlines these items specifically.

Announced Recent Contributions:

\$12,000.00 gift – Debt Reduction of Catch the Spirit State Bank & Trust Loan

\$8,000.00 gift - Debt Reduction of Catch the Spirit State Bank & Trust Loan

\$2,500.00 gift from Apple Fantasy - Debt Reduction of Catch the Spirit State Bank & Trust Loan

Congregation unanimously affirmed raising the \$40,137 needed to pay off the State Bank Loan by the end of February.

In addition, a motion by Randy Morsch to consolidate the following debt:

Catch the Spirit Building Fund Loan
\$78,224

Endowment Operating Loan (pre-'09)
\$27,129

Include Water Repair / Estimate \$5,780

Fellowship Hall and Rooms

Parking Lot Sealing & Striping
\$2,200 (Estimate)

Approximate Loan total of \$113,333 with the ELCA Mission Invest Fund 5 year reset/finance option.

Motion 2nd by Allyne Holz.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

Current Debt

Constitutional requirements for calling a congregational meeting were met by sending a notification by mail at least 10 days prior to the meeting and making congregational announcements on two Sunday's in worship.

The sole purpose of this meeting is to consider consolidating debt into one loan with the Mission Investment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Current Debt:

Catch the Spirit Building Fund Loan	\$78,224
	(no payments, interest only to OSLC endowment)
Catch the Spirit State Bank & Trust Loan	\$40,137
	(payment on 4 th of month for \$954.48)
Endowment Operating Loan (pre-2009)	<u>\$27,129</u>
	(occasional designated giving occurs plus interest only to OSLC Endowment)
Total	\$145,490

Further Considerations

Water Repair Bid / Estimate	\$5,780.00
Fellowship Hall and Rooms	
Parking Lot Sealing and Striping	\$2,200 (estimate)
Total	\$153,470

Catch the Spirit Savings

Current Account Balance	\$1,553.69
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Terms of ELCA Mission Invest Fund

25 year amortization on \$155,000		
5 year reset/refinance (balloon payoff \$140,511)	4.62%	\$872.13 month
7 year reset/refinance (balloon payoff \$133,197)	5.00%	\$906.11 month
Fee		\$850

Consideration: a consolidation loan would appropriately separate the borrowing that has been occurring with the Endowment Funds of the congregation. The monthly payment would be slightly reduced and provide time for goal setting that strengthens the mission and outreach of the congregation while planning for a debt reduction emphasis that could happen with another strong stewardship emphasis like Catch the Spirit.

Recommended Motion: We, the congregation of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, in a congregational meeting on Sunday, December 4, 2011 approve the consolidation of current debt into one loan with the Mission Investment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America with an update regarding this action to be presented at the annual meeting of the congregation on Sunday, January 29, 2012.

2011 Congregational Statistical Report

Membership (Using figures from current computer statistics)

	<u>Baptized</u>	<u>Confirmed</u>
Membership as of December 31, 2011	1768	1165
Members received during 2011		
By baptism	+ 19	
By affirmation of faith	+ 7	+ 1
By transfer	+ 23	+ 9
Baptized youth who were confirmed in 2011		+ 16
Members removed during 2011		
By transfer	- 24	- 13
By death	- 18	- 16
By inactivity, request, etc.	- 8	- 4
Membership as of December 31, 2011	1767	1158

Average number in attendance each week at worship	344
(2010 average)	(386)

Pastoral Acts

Baptisms:	19 Children	0 Adults
Weddings:	4 Members	2 Non-member
Funerals:	18 Members	4 Non-member

In Memory

Agnes S. Haaland	Edna Fuder	Jeanne Wichman
Gary Peterson	Grace Myers	Donna Houseman
Arnold Aune	Robert Swanson	Lenore Lotten
Evelyn Kragness	Helen Salness	Eathan Miller
Merle Correll	Ila May Thorstad	
Julie Gunkel	Leo "Joe" Baker	

2011 Financial Report and 2012 Proposed Budget

	Budget 2011	Actual 12/31/11	Variance 11 Bud / Actual	Budget 2012	Variance 11 / 12 Budget
Offering	\$423,000.00	\$381,890.17	\$(41,109.83)	\$392,500.00	\$(30,500.00)
Other (services & Misc.)	\$22,500.00	\$8,490.21	\$(14,009.79)	\$7,100.00	\$(15,400.00)
Memorials	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$(1,000.00)	\$0.00	\$(1,000.00)
Grants	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,500.00	\$5,500.00
Balance Forward	\$0.00	\$(1,837.66)		\$1,837.00	\$1,837.00
Total Revenues	\$446,500.00	\$388,542.72	\$(56,119.62)	\$406,937.00	\$(39,563.00)
Benevolence					
Lutheran Soc. Service	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$(600.00)	\$500.00	\$(100.00)
NW MN Synod	\$20,000.00	\$5,400.00	\$(14,600.00)	\$10,000.00	\$(10,000.00)
Pathways	\$650.00	\$0.00	\$(650.00)	\$500.00	\$(150.00)
Oak Grove	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$(500.00)	\$500.00	\$0.00
Churches United	\$2,500.00	\$400.00	\$(2,100.00)	\$2,875.00	\$375.00
Lutheran Campus Ministries	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$(1,000.00)	\$0.00	\$(1,000.00)
Total Benevolence	\$25,250.00	\$7,200.00	\$(18,050.00)	\$15,375.00	\$(9,875.00)
Worship & Music					
Compensation	\$30,664.03	\$37,541.10	\$6,877.07	\$24,252.00	\$(6,412.03)
Music, Licenses, Fees	\$1,400.00	\$3,880.42	\$2,480.42	\$1,600.00	\$200.00
Maintenance	\$1,000.00	\$1,080.00	\$80.00	\$500.00	\$(500.00)
Other	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$(100.00)	\$0.00	\$(100.00)
Total Worship & Music	\$33,164.03	\$42,501.52	\$9,337.49	\$26,352.00	\$(6,812.03)
Education					
Compensation	\$37,958.51	\$34,237.44	\$(3,721.07)	\$36,937.44	\$(1,021.07)
Benefits	\$2,900.00	\$8,688.06	\$5,788.06	\$2,900.00	\$0.00
Activities / Programs	\$10,450.00	\$14,215.16	\$3,765.16	\$8,950.00	\$(1,500.00)
Other	\$360.00	\$0.00	\$(360.00)	\$0.00	\$(360.00)
Total Education	\$51,668.51	\$57,140.66	\$5,472.15	\$48,787.44	\$(2,881.07)
Pastoral					
Compensation / Housing	\$104,988.09	\$118,639.92	\$13,651.83	\$110,868.00	\$5,879.91
Health / Pension	\$45,881.00	\$26,709.88	\$(19,171.12)	\$49,506.20	\$3,625.20
Cont. Education / Conferences	\$2,500.00	\$548.45	\$(1,951.55)	\$2,500.00	\$0.00
Other	\$5,564.00	\$2,849.31	\$(2,714.69)	\$2,200.00	\$(3,364.00)
Total Pastoral	\$158,933.09	\$148,747.56	\$(10,185.53)	\$165,074.20	\$6,141.11
Pastoral Care					
Benefits	\$450.00	\$0.00	\$(450.00)	\$0.00	\$(450.00)
Total Pastoral Care	\$450.00	\$0.00	\$(450.00)	\$0.00	\$(450.00)
Administration					
Compensation	\$45,606.11	\$59,395.14	\$13,789.03	\$57,457.00	\$11,850.89
Benefits	\$4,915.00	\$1,800.00	\$(3,115.00)	\$2,400.00	\$(2,515.00)
Cont. Education / Conferences	\$200.00	\$406.19	\$206.19	\$200.00	\$0.00
Operational Costs / Supplies	\$24,380.00	\$19,057.02	\$(5,322.98)	\$18,920.00	\$(5,460.00)
Equipment & Maintenance	\$11,600.00	\$5,842.31	\$(5,757.69)	\$4,800.00	\$(6,800.00)
Other	\$4,060.00	\$6,263.22	\$2,203.22	\$7,200.00	\$3,140.00
Total Administration	\$90,761.11	\$92,763.88	\$2,002.77	\$90,977.00	\$215.89
Church Home					
Compensation	\$38,095.94	\$29,128.56	\$(8,967.38)	\$35,000.00	\$(3,095.94)
Benefits	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00

Utilities	\$33,000.00	\$33,890.84	\$890.84	\$36,000.00	\$3,000.00
Insurance	\$4,200.00	\$0.00	\$(4,200.00)	\$0.00	\$(4,200.00)
Supplies	\$1,800.00	\$3,649.65	\$1,849.65	\$3,500.00	\$1,700.00
Repair & Maintenance	\$9,500.00	\$9,511.88	\$11.88	\$7,500.00	\$(2,000.00)
Other	\$825.00	\$535.82	\$(289.18)	\$4,590.52	\$3,765.52
Total Church Home	\$87,420.94	\$76,716.75	\$(10,704.19)	\$88,590.52	\$1,169.58
Evangelism					
Publicity	\$750.00	\$246.11	\$(503.89)	\$250.00	\$(500.00)
Total Evangelism	\$750.00	\$246.11	\$(503.89)	\$250.00	\$(500.00)
Missions					
Missions local / global	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$(1,500.00)	\$500.00	\$(1,000.00)
Total Missions	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$(1,500.00)	\$500.00	\$(1,000.00)
Stewardship					
Stewardship Drive	\$2,200.00	\$0.00	\$(2,200.00)	\$1,000.00	\$(1,200.00)
Total Stewardship	\$2,200.00	\$0.00	\$(2,200.00)	\$1,000.00	\$(1,200.00)
Debt Service	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$(5,000.00)	\$7,740.00	\$2,740.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$457,097.68	\$425,316.48	\$(31,781.20)	\$444,646.16	\$(12,451.52)
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$446,500.00	\$388,542.72	\$(56,119.62)	\$406,937.00	\$(39,563.00)
PAYABLE - LINE OF CREDIT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
RECEIPTS LESS EXPENSES	\$(10,597.68)	\$(36,773.76)	\$(24,338.42)	\$(37,709.16)	\$(27,111.48)

Designated Funds

December 31, 2011

Retained Earnings	\$342.53	Kitchen	\$10.00
Oil Royalty Fund	\$112.40	Prayer Garden	\$20.00
Church Sign	\$122.00	Befriender Ministry	\$439.54
Food Pantry	\$125.00	Living Grace	\$2,347.00
Education	\$2,259.98	Altar Guild	\$2,542.82
Hymnal Fund	\$103.25	Handbells	\$1,189.60
Youth	\$20,594.62	OSLW Kitchen Funds	\$4,887.09
Parish Nursing	\$715.42	Snow Removal	\$1,500.00
Evangelism	\$272.54	Our Savior's Helpers	\$324.18
Lend-a-Hand	\$1,586.73	Friday Fellowship	\$163.19
Quilting	\$2,353.66	Website	\$365.00
Hearing System	\$555.00	Lawnmower	\$550.00
Churches United	\$5.00	Miscellaneous	\$(1,237.87)
Music/Organ	\$2,030.82	Bank Charges	\$(37.23)
Music Grant	\$8,314.00	Admin Expenses	\$(6.29)
Missions	\$1,421.65	Church Roof	\$(2,997.92)
Seminary Student Fund	\$100.00		
		Total (12/31/11)	\$51,073.71

Council President

Ryan Nelson

Dear members of Our Savior's Lutheran Church,

Recapping the fiscal year 2011 seems impossible. I didn't keep one of Pastor Mellum's letters to the congregation earlier in the year in which he spelled out many of the wonderful things and events that have either taken place or are taking place at Our Savior's. I remember reading the paragraph of all the wonderful things Our Savior's and members were doing. Any attempt for me to recap those events would be a daunting task alone. There are so many things happening and keeping track of everything is impossible, it seems. But many of those things are now in the past and hopefully many will continue into the future. That is where my concentration is as I look forward to the annual meeting, the future of Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

As members, we should take time to think and pray about short term and long term planning. I have thought about what does Our Savior's look like in five years, ten years, etc. Many years ago, some wonderful folks followed God's plan in north Moorhead and took "the walk" from Trinity to our current location in north Moorhead. This is all before my time, but the stories I have heard is that Our Savior's flourished and grew strong roots in north Moorhead. There is evidence all around us by the stories long time members and charter members tell us. These stories must be remembered and honored. Those wonderful folks saw the long-term goals God had in mind for north Moorhead. The interesting part of the story that has not been told to me but I realize, is that many of those folks sacrificed and gave for the future. They put in place a wonderful church that flourished, not just for themselves to come worship and serve the Lord, but for many others around north Moorhead and the surrounding area. Our

long-term goals need to keep this in mind about how we can reach out to others in this community and what God's plans are for Our Savior's. I have also realized that when Our Savior's was established, the word "Community" probably meant some geographically smaller than what "Community" means in today's society. When we talk about "Community" now, we usually refer to the greater Fargo-Moorhead area as a whole, not just north Moorhead.

With that said, it is my idea to start thinking about the future and considering a new home for Our Savior's. The reality is, and will continue to be, that we are no longer in "central" north Moorhead. We are closed off from many routine travelers in the greater Fargo-Moorhead area. Part of reaching out is just plain exposure. That is very difficult in a location not routinely traveled by a great majority, even those who live and work in north Moorhead.

In addition to the above, we will have the realities of some major remodeling that should not be put off for the next generation to deal with. I have heard many issues surrounding lighting, energy usage and efficiency, kitchen repairs, basement and foundation issues, windows, and just general updating of areas that should be considered, just to name a few I have heard many times over. In addition to those issues which will demand attention in the future (some have already forced us to act), I believe the sanctuary needs some overhauling to make room for more comfortable church pews (and spacing) and a meet and greet area. However, we have some restrictions which are out of our control to make this happen.

I bring this topic up to begin conversations and prayer. I have no intention of leaving the story of Our Savior's behind or to forget the many wonderful people of Our Savior's.

I bring this up only as I believe God has a plan for Our Savior's and am seeking to fulfill his plan, whatever that plan may be.

Changing topics to our wonderful staff. We are truly blessed with the staff we have at Our Savior's. I know many things get done or happen that many of us do not realize. We show up to service or other events, and somehow things happen like clockwork. I also believe it is important to maintain stability among church staff. To be honest, over the past year I have given serious consideration to suggesting moving from a two-pastor church to a one-pastor church. These considerations mainly came from budget concerns and debt. I have had conversations with pastoral leadership and members about this consideration over the past several months. Then something amazing happened. In the course of one month, we paid off debt of about \$43,000. I began to re-evaluate my considerations and started to focus on the importance of stability in church staff and pastoral leadership. To continue to flourish, we must continue on and find a way. I am also starting to realize that Our Savior's needs to consider allowing our pastors the time to do what they are called to do, that is being a pastor. I am realizing that often times their time is utilized with church administration-type activities. Does God's plan call for an administrator to deal with the "business" of Our Savior's???

Reporting on the monthly Church Council business is not exactly "front page" material. So as I think about the work of council over this past year to report on, it is not the work of council that makes things happen, it is the work of you with God's plan that makes it a wonderful place to be. Hence, the tag line from the NW MN Synod: "Gods work. Our hands"

Ryan Nelson, Church Council President

Senior Pastor

Loren D. Mellum

"The Church of Christ in every age beset by change, but Spirit led, must claim and test its heritage and keep on rising from the dead."
– ELW 729, *The Church of Christ, in Every Age, Verse 1*

Dear Friends in Christ,

Earlier this month I wrote dates on my 2012 calendar. One date is a return trip to celebrate the 125th anniversary with a congregation I had once served. As I remembered this precious congregation I found myself acknowledging how God sees the church through time. I think of a friend whose congregation in Eastern Europe is 450 years old. It has weathered many political regimes including the Soviet era. Reborn many times over its ministry is real and relevant today. As I write about Our Savior's I give thanks that Our Savior's turns 65 years old this year. What God began in 1947 continues. In church time we are really just starting to grow up. What a gift it is to trust that God sustains God's people as we seek to follow Jesus.

I hope Our Savior's continues to courageously and lovingly ask questions that are important. Questions about identity and mission really matter. Why is our congregation taking up precious space on God's earth? If suddenly our congregation disappeared what would our community miss? Where is God leading us? What is God's promised and preferred future for Our Savior's? Do we expect to be surprised by the Holy Spirit? Asking such questions can be an important faith practice. Faithful questions also offer us the opportunity to imagine that 60 years from now Our Savior's will celebrate a 125th anniversary and that there will be faith communities in our area who someday will celebrate 450 years of ministry. Wow!

As I review 2011 I give thanks for the Church Council and the Spirits Mov'n Team. I give thanks for the church staff and all those who gather in worship and mission together. It has been a good year. One of the highlights for me this past year happened in December when our congregation gathered to consider building renovation debt. In the Fellowship Hall people joined together in conversation and decision-making. The decision was to pay-off a \$43,000 loan as soon as possible. Thirty days later the loan was paid in full! What I witnessed in December was a congregation that could do what they decided to do. What a strength this is for Our Savior's when exercised on a regular basis. Now, what would it look like if we decided to do what God is calling us to do?

I commend all the reports to you for 2011. They are a snapshot of many of the happenings at Our Savior's. However, no report can capture what the depths of what our faith in Jesus Christ means to us or how vital the relationships are that we make with spiritual friends along life's way.

As we approach 2012 we have work to do. Our Savior's has work to do! May we be responsive to God's grace as we work

along with other congregations in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and with each other as we live for the sake of the world. We've seen in a very personal way what it means to work together this year as we've walked with a new congregation in the ELCA, Living Grace Lutheran Church, Hawley, MN. Keep in mind that congregations that grow have a laser like focus outside the congregational walls and relationships. We ask questions that transform selfishness. Who is not here yet? Who can we reach out to? Dare we go where the faith questions like this take us?

"We have no mission but to serve in full obedience to our Lord; to care for all, without reserve, and spread his liberating word." -- ELW 729, *The Church of Christ, in Every Age, Verse 5*

Pastor for Youth and Congregational Life

Pr. Patrick Loree

Confirmation

In September of 2011 our current confirmation students began their year of Catechism instruction. We have been designing and modifying our curriculum as needed in order to fulfill our desire to connect faith and life. We moved our confirmation class to the Sanctuary because of its size and to utilize more teaching methods such as PowerPoint presentations, how the Catechism attaches to worship practices, and video projection of clips and DVD's that were/are *apra pos* to the subjects studied this year. In October, 14 of our young adults affirmed their faith with us. I have been working on next steps for those who affirm their faith in Christ and wish to continue to deepen their faith here.

Research shows relationships are the foundation of faithful lives of practicing Christians. Both Melissa Pickering, Our Savior's Minister for Youth and Family Discipleship, and I attend many of the events (sports, theater, concerts, etc.) in which our youth and young adults participate in order to more fully culture real and trusting relationships between ourselves and the youth and young adults we serve. Our motto: No one cares about what we know, until first they know how much we care. This approach to teaching and learning has been very affective and confirmation attendance is on the rise for our students and their parents.

Beginning in the summer of 2012, it is my intention to explore teaching one year of the biblical story (from Genesis to Revelation) for confirmation. This narrative approach should offer our students a better understanding of the bible as a book of faith, the sequence of events that lead to Christ's coming, the life of the early church, and how we got to where we are as a church today. It is also my intention to offer confirmation to anyone who wishes to attend, both young and older persons alike.

IMPACT/Youth Choir

In 2011, we began two new ventures into investing in our youth and young adults. The first is known as IMPACT (youth group). This group is designed to build

relationships and to create a fun and inviting time/place where our youth and young adults can enjoy: getting to know one another, worshipping, learning and discovering new things, as well as, being a part of a group that learns what it is to communicate their faith and share their lives with others.

Our youth choir has about 15 members and they sang on Thanksgiving Eve. Special thanks to Suzie Loree for her direction. During Lent of 2012 we hope members of our youth group/choir will lead a majority of the Wednesday evening services.

Property

After the rekeying of the building we have found our building to be safer and more secure, aided by a lockup team (Neal Philbrick, Les Harrison, and George Busby. Special thanks to these gentlemen as well as Amanda and Christy Eickhoff and Gary Haaland for their support of this project.

In 2012, the parking lot adjacent to the church will be resurfaced and restriped to prevent a more costly repair in the future.

Work is needed to prevent water from entering the basement and fellowship hall during the spring and summer months. A revised landscaping plan as well as specified area foundational repair is needed to bring this project to a completion.

Mission trips

In 2011, our youth took two mission trips, one to Duluth (Jr. High) and one to Chicago (Sr. High). They did a wonderful job serving the people in those cities. They worked with programs designed to eliminate homelessness, keep kids in school and off dangerous streets, and provide man-power needed to complete service projects in both cities. In Chicago, we were told our students were by far the hardest-working students they had ever seen but more than that, we were the most giving of ourselves in Christ-like ways. To all of our students who made the trip allow me to say: *thank you for your dedication to the gospel, to lives of faith and service, and to your congregation.*

National Youth Gathering

In July of 2012 nine youth from Our Savior's will join 36,000 youth of the ELCA in New Orleans for the National Youth Gathering. Our Savior's has partnered with Pathways Bible Camps to make the trip. Melissa Pickering will be an adult leader on this trip. We are currently seeking a male adult from Our Savior's to also make the trip but may have to rely on a male member of the Pathways staff to help us chaperone our male youth attending. This practice of shared responsibility is not uncommon, as all adults leading trips from Pathways are required to pass background checks.

Financial Peace University

During the Fall of 2011 we brought Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University to Our Savior's. We had nearly a dozen households take the 13 week course which is designed to reframe how/what we know about money and wealth and how to make it work for us as managers of God's resources for the world around us. It was well-received and we intend to offer it again in 2012. Special thanks to Amy and Jon Paul for hosting this course.

Partners in Ministry

I currently serve on the Oak Grove Board of Regents as the representative of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod. I also serve on the Synod Assembly Worship Planning Team. At the 2011 Synod Assembly I served as a presenter on the topic off "Why Men Don't Participate in the Life of the Church." I continue to help preach/preside at Living Grace in Hawley.

Thank you

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the people of Our Savior's and our mission field here in the Fargo-Moorhead area. What 2012 has in store for us as a congregation is a mystery but I am confident that God is already out in front of us setting the stage for what is to come. God bless the people of Our Savior's and may we be a blessing not only for ourselves, but for those persons whom God places in our paths in the coming year.

Minister for Youth & Family Discipleship

Melissa Pickering

Youth & Family Discipleship Committee:

Paula Danielson, Cherie Rusch, Melissa Pickering, Tasha Haug, Wyatt Nelson, Emily Larson, Cody Zitzow, Pastor Patrick Loree and Jessie Jensen

Sunday School

Spark, a publication of Augsburg Fortress is the curriculum that the Sunday School currently using. It is the third year that *Spark* has been available, and the second for Our Savior's usage. We have had extremely positive response to *Spark*, and are excited about using it again next year. We are using *Spark* in a traditional classroom setting for both Primary and Intermediate students. *Spark* is a Sunday school faith formation program designed to activate faith in children ages 2 through grade 6. It's **innovative, intuitive and designed to ease the burden of planning and teacher preparation** for Christian Education Directors and Sunday school teachers. During the Christmas and Easter seasons, we take a break from the curriculum to practice for the programs and give teachers a chance to teach a Christmas/Easter lesson. All Sunday School classes provide special music during the worship services throughout the year. The Spring Program was held on Mother's Day, May 8th, 2011. The Preschool through 1st Grade presented their program during the Education Hour, with the 2nd through 6th grade participating in the 10:30 a.m. worship service by sharing their praise through song. On September 18th, a celebration was held for the Sunday School. Kids of all ages, and their parents, participated in the events held outside the church. The Sunday School Celebration focused on the theme "Exercise Your Faith," and all activities centered around being active, both physically and spiritually. The Preschool class had a short orientation meeting on September 8 to help them become acquainted with the church and Sunday School. Kathe Eldred, the Sunday School music leader, has been a blessing to our Sunday School program. On Oct. 2, 15

third graders received their Holy Bibles during the 10:30 worship service. This year the NRSV Bible from *Spark* was given to the kids through donations from the Enervold Bible Fund.

The Christmas program, entitled "O Christmas Tree" was presented by all Sunday School students on Sunday, Dec. 18. Thank you to Kathe Eldred, director; Cathi Chial, accompanist; 6th Grade Sunday School class for narrating; and the 3rd Grade Sunday School classes for playing the Nativity roles.

Current (Jan. '10) enrollment: There are 64 students registered for the 3 year olds (preschool) through first grade and 86 2nd through 6th graders.

Children's Church

Children's Church is offered on Wednesday evenings (excluding Advent and Lent) from 6:45-7:15 pm in the Children's Chapel at Our Savior's. Seth and Noah Dahle, college students from Moorhead, gather after Children's Time (during worship) and use music and small group discussions to convey the lesson for the evening. The kids play games, sing and do a short Bible lesson. Seth and Noah have been a wonderful addition to Our Savior's this year.

Current (Dec. '11) enrollment: There are about 10-12 kids each week at Children's Church. Registration is not necessary.

Mission/Stewardship

Sunday School offerings continue to provide monthly support (\$30/month) to Waldo Boris Tarqui Tellez, our *World Vision* child from Bolivia. Periodically the Sunday morning Sunday School offerings go to the Good Samaritan Fund, Dorothy Day Food Pantry, Churches United and the YWCA. Collections of donated clothes, food and baby items are given throughout the year as well.

Confirmation Ministry

On Sept. 25, 14 10th grade students met at Our Savior's for their **Affirmation of Baptism Retreat**. Confirmands made their sashes, discussed their Faith Statements, went on a scavenger hunt in the F-M area, and explored the Sacraments in depth. The students affirmed their baptisms and confirmed their Christian faith on October 9, 2011. Seventh, Eighth and Ninth graders, along with 6 confirmation guides, and Pastor Mellum and Pastor Patrick as large group presenters, met on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Parents are required to attend 10 sessions. Each 9th grade student has a mentor that will encourage their faith through the Lenten season. There are currently (Jan. '11) 60 students enrolled in our Confirmation Program.

Vacation Bible School

This year Our Savior's and Dilworth Lutheran joined forces to bring 5 counselors from Pathways Bible Camps to our youth. They met the 1st week in August, and what a week it was! The kids met each evening at Dilworth Lutheran, and spent two hours worshipping God through arts and crafts, games and song. It was amazing to see all the kids, and all the youth leaders, having such a wonderful time. The 5-6th Graders of Our Savior's were given the opportunity to celebrate God's creation in their own way - at the Red River Zoo! 6 youth and adult leaders, Paige Olson and Melissa Pickering worshipped in a new and exciting way by spending 12 hours at the zoo. What a great way to fellowship and have fun! Hats off to the Red River Zoo for putting on such a wonderful and educational experience for these kids. VBS was a big success this year, with about 30 kids attending. Thank you to those who helped out with VBS 2011 and to Dilworth Lutheran for co-hosting Pathways Bible Camps with us. Vacation Bible School (with Dilworth Lutheran and Pathways) will be held at Our Savior's in August, 2012.

Milestone Ministry

Milestone Ministry is a vital Ministry program at Our Savior's. We begin with the Preschool Orientation and Blessing (September), and continue throughout their school years. In October, there was a "Praise Party" scheduled for the Kindergarten Sunday School students and their parents. They celebrated their baptisms and learned what baptism is all about. In October, the 4th grade Sunday School students began their ministry as Guardian Angels. They attended a class about baptism and their responsibilities as a Guardian Angel. They are asked to help out at baptisms and pray for "their" baptized child each day. The 6th graders milestone focused on money and stewardship. In 2011, the First Grade classes marked their milestone with "Lord, Hear Our Prayer." They spent a Saturday morning learning about the Lord's Prayer, eating bread together, and making prayer boxes. The 2nd graders milestone marker focuses on fairness. First Communion in the late winter marks the 5th Grade milestone, and the 3rd graders received their Bibles in October. In the late winter, the PreKindergarteners attend a Pillow Party with their parents, where they make pillows to remember their baptism. The 1st grade classes lead the congregation in The Lord's Prayer in early spring. The 7th, 8th and 9th graders mark their milestones at their Confirmation Retreats, and the 10th graders with the Affirmation of Baptism Service. The graduating seniors from Our Savior's are celebrated in late spring with Senior Sunday, where they receive quilts made by congregational members and attend a brunch with their families. In 2011, 20 seniors received quilts and celebrated at the Senior Sunday brunch with their families.

Vibrant Faith Ministries

The collaboration between Our Savior's and Vibrant Faith Ministries continued through 2011, and will continue into 2012. Jim LaDoux, VFM congregational coach met with many Our Savior's members to begin to formulate a plan for inviting families to be a part of what Vibrant Faith Ministries is all about. More meetings are scheduled with Jim LaDoux in January, 2012.

Thanks

We would like to thank those that have served in Youth and Family Ministry in any way this year. All of the Education and Youth programs here could not exist without the caring and devoted volunteers. We are all very blessed to have such kind and giving members. Sunday School teachers, leaders and shepherds, confirmation guides and large group presenters are the backbone of the Christian Education Department at OSLC. The following people are teaching Sunday School this year: Katie Bormann, Suzy Nelson, Briana Corneliussen, Cherie Rusch, Wendy Blue, Annise Montplaisir, Anne Syvertson, Laurene Fuglseth, Sarah Nelson, Claire Maynard, Jessie Jensen, Paige Olson, Zach Fjelstad, Kris Fjelstad, Abbey Zuehlsdorff, Marcia Norman, Rachel Maier, Dena Halverson, Leslie Eidem and Brandon Bahr. Thank you to all the substitute Sunday School teachers who have volunteered their time throughout the year.

We are also very blessed to have the following adults helping out with confirmation classes and 7-8 Sundays: Tasha Haug, Laura Caroon, Brian Pickering and Cody Zitzow.

Thank you to all that have helped out this year!

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Youth Ministry Report

Youth ministries at Our Savior's complement the ways our young people are engaged in worship, music, educational and other ministries of the congregation. We focus on three age groups:

Middle School Ministries

Middle School Ministries (grades 7-9) are carried out primarily in conjunction with our confirmation program. This includes separate retreats for each grade level: Seventh Grade (a Sunday afternoon in early fall), Eighth Grade (a Sunday afternoon in January) and Ninth Grade (held on a Sunday afternoon at a Lutheran church in Moorhead in early fall). 7-8 Sundays

(Sunday morning class for 7-8 graders) meets the first Sunday of every month.

Senior High Ministries

Senior High Ministries (grades 9-12) have focused many on Youth Meetings, Fundraisers, Mission Trips and Impact, the senior high youth group. Also beginning in 2011 was the Youth Choir, ONE VOICE, which meets twice a month under the direction of Suzie Loree.

The youth of Our Savior's took two Mission Trips in 2011. It was an amazing adventure, with 3 youth and 1 adult leader from Our Savior's traveling to Duluth, and 10 youth and 2 adult leaders venturing to Chicago. Messiah Lutheran Church (Fargo) and Our Savior's partnered together to bring service and caring to the residents of both Duluth and Chicago. Thank you to Pastor Patrick Loree and Melissa Pickering for leading.

2012 promises to be a big year for the Youth of Our Savior's! Fundraising is already in full force, as the Senior High Youth prepare for a trip to New Orleans, LA in July for the ELCA National Youth Gathering. A short trip to Sioux Falls is scheduled for all youth in grades 6-12 for August, providing a day of fun and a day of service for participants. Impact will continue to meet twice a month (under Pastor Patrick Loree), and a Family Movie Night is in the works for February.

The youth of Our Savior's and their adult leaders are very grateful to all members and friends of the congregation for their strong support of our youth ministries. As we look to 2012, we are hoping to continue wonderful growth of the youth programs, along with putting in place new adventure trips and events. Our Savior's continues to grow its youth programs, with many youth coming to church throughout the week just to "hang out" and be a part of something bigger than them. We are truly blessed with amazing youth, both young and old, here at Our Savior's.

Submitted by Melissa Pickering, Minister for Youth and Family Discipleship

Catch the Spirit (Physical Plant Improvement Project) *Bank Reconciliation, Calendar 2011*

BEGINNING BALANCE @ 01/01/2011	<u>\$ 6,712.97</u>
ADD: CASH RECEIPTS ---	
CONGREGATIONAL GIVING	\$ 45,889.06
OTHER (APPLE PIE FANTASY/	2,522.00
	<u>TOTAL CASH RECEIPTS \$ 48,411.06</u>
LESS: CASH DISBURSALS ---	
SCHEDULED STATE BANK & TRUST LOAN	\$ 11,453.76
OSLC ENDOWMENT FUNDS LOAN INTEREST	2,737.84
	<u>TOTAL CASH DISBURSEMENTS \$ 14,191.60</u>
ENDING BALANCE @ 12/31/2011	<u>\$ 40,932.43</u>
OSLC ENDOWMENT FUNDS LOAN PRINCIPAL BALANCE @ 12/31/2011	<u>\$ 78,224.03</u>
STATE BANK & TRUST LOAN PRINCIPAL BALANCE @ 12/31/2011	<u>\$ 39,376.18</u> *

* NOTE PRINCIPAL BALANCE, PLUS ALL ACCRUED INTEREST,

Creation Care Committee

Mission Statement

The Creation Care Committee seeks to model care for creation in the life of our parish, in the lives of our members and within our community by providing ideas, resources and support to other committees of the church in adopting creation care practices and programs.

The Call to be Green

The Creation Care Committee was formed in January of 2009 following a Web of Creation Leadership Training Program in the spring of 2008. Committee members are Carrie Brusven and Laura Caroon. The committee is following the Green Congregation Program, a resource from The Web of Creation (www.webofcreation.org).

An Action Plan was developed for the care of creation at Our Savior's. The strategy is to make a difference on earth by 1) transforming attitudes and commitments, and 2) embracing concrete actions that reduce human ecological impact on Earth and 3) contributing to justice for people affected by environmental degradation (*Green Congregation Program*, Web of Creation). Actions were taken in the following categories during 2011.

Worship

Our Savior's celebrated its fourth Earth Sunday on May 15. The worship service included special liturgy, prayers, and music focused on care for creation. The 2011 theme was "Eco-Justice as Community," following worship materials provided by the National Council of Churches for Eco Justice.

Worshippers are encouraged to recycle their bulletins after every worship service throughout the year.

Education

Several youth participated in The Story of Stuff curriculum during January and February. The class encouraged participants to consider the environmental, social and relational impacts of our culture's obsession with "stuff." We learned about where our "stuff" comes from, what are its effects on us while we have it, and where does it go when we throw it away?

Earth Week took place May 9-15. The theme was "Eco-Justice as Community." Earth Week activities included:

- Plastic Bottle Drive
- Movie Night, showing *The Inconvenient Truth*
- Build Your Own Rain Barrel Workshop with River Keepers of Fargo
- Art Contest to decorate Our Savior's two rain barrels
- Earth Sunday Worship Services
- Summer Email List Challenge kick-off. [#] people chose to join the email list for church mailings and to discontinue receiving paper copies.

Building and Grounds

Our custodial staff continued to stock restroom facilities with eco-friendly paper products.

Inefficient incandescent light bulbs are being replaced with energy efficient CFLs as they burn out.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church Women agreed to begin phasing out the use of Styrofoam in the church building. We no longer use Styrofoam cups for Sunday morning fellowship; we now use the ceramic cups already available in the cupboards

One of our two rain barrels was installed on the west side of the church building by the staff parking. All indoor plant watering utilized water from this rain barrel and some outdoor water as well.

Discipleship at Home and Work

The Earth Sunday Picnic Celebration on May 15 was catered by VIP Room Catering, who agreed to cater with a "Box Lunch" without the individual boxes.

Our Savior's used biodegradable plates and cups for the Earth Sunday Picnic and fall Community Picnic.

Public Ministry / Political Advocacy

Creation Care articles and action alerts are printed in the church newsletter, the *Parish Visitor*, and the weekly bulletin as often as possible.

We continue to use the blog, *Creating a Greener Community at Our Savior's Lutheran Church* (www.oslcgreen.blogspot.com) to highlight efforts of the committee and the Congregation, to provide ideas and inspiration on being better stewards of God's creation, links to other helpful resources, and to encourage people to share their own 'green' stories.

Earth Week Video (featured on the National Council of Churches for Eco Justice website!)

Goals for 2012

Earth Week 2012

Organize a Green Fundraiser to raise funds to be put toward green initiatives in the church building

Promoting awareness of community and global environmental issues and ways Our Savior's can be a positive force for change.

Thank You

Thank you to Our Savior's Lutheran Church members and friends for your continued and growing interest and enthusiasm in caring for God's creation.

Thank you to both Pastor Loren and Pastor Patrick for their support of this ministry at Our Savior's.

Creation Care Committee

Carrie Brusven, Committee Chair
Laura Caroon

Good Samaritan Team

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill', and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. James 2:14-17

The Good Samaritan Fund of Our Savior's was established over 25 years ago to help members and non-members in need. It is completely funded by members, Our Savior's organizations, and others who contribute toward it through memorials and other monetary gifts. In 2011 help was given for gas vouchers, MAT bus passes, occasional bus or train tickets for people trying to return to their homes in other areas, co-payments for medical necessities, and many other needs. Good Samaritan records are kept for all those receiving vouchers/payments, with the limitation of people being helped no more than three times in a 12 month period. **Help is given to those in need from the Good Samaritan Fund on Mondays (except when the church is closed for holidays, etc.) from 2:00-4:00 p.m. by the Good Samaritan team. The pastors are available when needs arise during the week for Our Savior's members.**

Referrals are made to the F-M Food Pantry in Fargo; referrals must come from an agency or church. This Food Pantry serves Fargo and Moorhead, as well as surrounding rural areas. Families are only eligible for three referrals in a 12 month period. Thank you to everyone from Our Savior's who has contributed toward the Food Pantry with food and monetary contributions, which are, in turn, distributed to these families in need through the Food Pantry. When families are in need and no longer eligible for Food Pantry referrals, grocery vouchers are given through the Good Samaritan Fund if funds are available. These vouchers can only be used for food and necessary groceries, with stipulations made prohibiting the purchase of cigarettes, soda pop, etc. When gas vouchers are given (usually \$15-20 each), a valid driver's license for the person driving the vehicle and proof of insurance on the vehicle being driven are required. The New Life Center will accept referrals from us for those in need of clothing and household supplies, with no charge to us.

Our Savior's Quilters continue to keep the fund supplied with quilts in case there is a request from someone in need, and another Our Savior's member donates baby quilts to be distributed. The same Our Savior's couple who has provided holiday meals to those in need the past several years, again furnished complete Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners for two families in need.

Good Samaritan Fund receipts for 2011:

Balance on hand January 1, 2011	\$ 1090.22
Contributions January 1 - December 31, 2011	6449.00
Help given to those in need in 2011	6496.12
Balance on hand December 31, 2011	\$1043.10

Good Samaritan Team

Jane & Ron Bedard, Opal Cameron, Carol Ann & Duane Dahlberg, John & Marjorie Gjevre, Linda Jones, Dan & Faith Meurrens, Norma Swanson, Bonnie Thom, Cheryl Zeh, & Pr. Loren Mellum.

Lend a Hand Committee

Lend a Hand continues to be a resource for Our Savior's members to access financial assistance for medical bills and/or travel expenses for medical treatment, as well as unique financial challenges faced by members.

In Spring 2011, Lend A Hand helped to spearhead a fundraising benefit at Our Savior's for a member battling cancer. A very successful benefit was held with many members and groups of the congregation playing key roles in planning and participation.

This fall, Lend A Hand provided \$100 Hornbacher's gift cards to all congregation members affected by the American Crystal Sugar company lock-out.

In order to continue providing assistance to congregation members, Lend A Hand is planning 1-2 fundraising efforts for 2013.

Lend A Hand thanks the congregation for their ongoing support of this program and is pleased to have been able to serve our congregation.

Committee members

Jane Bedard, Teri Nordby, Rachel Schultz and Deb Watne

Missions Committee

The Missions Committee helps to coordinate and promote education and awareness for a wide range of mission efforts. These include: Missionary for a Day, Global Health Ministries (midwife/AIDS kits), Hunger issues, Lutheran Hunger Appeal, CROP Walk, Churches United for the Homeless, Blood Drive, Food Pantry, Thrivent Builds/Habitat for Humanity, and Peoples Church in Bemidji.

Bulletin Board

An Our Savior's Lutheran Church Missions bulletin board is maintained by the committee on the wall near Larsen Lounge to educate our congregation about OSLC and ELCA missions, provide the congregation current mission news, and promote our efforts.

Missionary for a Day

OSLC supports and maintains a relationship with missionaries Rev. Philip and Lou-Marie Knutson in South Africa. The Missions Committee maintains correspondence with Rev. Knutson, and promotes his work

through the Missionary for a Day fund at OSLC. We thank the congregation for their support of this important endeavor. For more information: ELCA South Africa Packet:

<http://www.elca.org/countrypackets/southafrica/desc.html>.)

Global Health Ministries

GHM is an organization that supports Lutheran medical missionaries around the world. When necessary, the Missions Committee assembles midwife kits and AIDS kits, which are delivered by GHM to missionaries in the field. (For more information:

Global Health Ministries: <http://www.ghm.org>)

Hunger Issues

The Missions Committee deals with hunger issues throughout the year. Thank you to the congregation for your generous support to feed the hungry in our community. Every March we coordinate a food drive for Minnesota Food Share whereby donations are matched. (For more information: ELCA World Hunger Appeal: <http://www.elca.org/hunger>)

CROP Walk

The "new and improved" CROP Walk was held this year, for the third year. The Missions committee organizes walkers and donors at OSLC for the walk, and we also donate money to offset expenses for the walk. As a result, all proceeds go directly to Church World Services. Seventy-five percent of funds raised are used in CWS projects around the world, and 25% of funds raised is returned to the FM area where it is divided among 6 organizations: YWCA Shelter, CUFH, New Life Center, Salvation Army, Dorothy Day House, and FM Food pantry. The 2012 walk is scheduled for May 9th. Watch for more details!

Blood Drive

Our Savior's hosts 2-3 blood drives each year. Thanks to Marcie Felix for her good work organizing these blood drives, and thank you to the members of Our Savior's who donated blood this year. (For more information: United Blood Services: <http://www.unitedbloodservices.org>)

Churches United for the Homeless

The Missions Committee works to support CUFH, along with our congregation's representatives, Barb Bustamante and Brad Cusey. Thank you to Our Savior's members for your continued support of CUFH. (For more information:

<http://www.churches-united.org>)

Thrivent Builds/Habitat for Humanity

Starting in 2007 we began one of our most exciting ventures, joining forces with the Thrivent Builds/Habitat for Humanity program. We continued this venture in 2008 and again in 2009. Since no building was done in Moorhead this year, we did not assist in labor, but we did donate financially to this cause. Thank you to OSLC members for your support.

Peoples Church in Bemidji

Beginning in 2004, OSLC has partnered with Peoples Church in Bemidji, a largely Native American church. Peoples Church is a mission church of the ELCA and reaches out to those who have no church home and to those in need. Peoples Church can be said to be living Jesus Christ's instructions as found in Matthew 25:31-46. For more information: <http://www.peopleschurchelca.org>)

Refugee Assistance

In 2009 the missions committee agreed to assist a young Congolese girl so that she could complete her education. Though not technically a refugee, Nana Manga Matuba found herself in this country, with no means to support herself, and unable to continue her education. Missions committee, under the direction of Jeanne Rodriguez, found housing for Nana, arranged for speaking engagements and other opportunities for her, and raised funds to keep her in school. It has been a joint effort with generous members of OSLC, the OSLW, the Trust Fund committee, and Our Savior's Women in Barnesville. Nana graduated in the spring of 2010 from MSUM with a double major in Biology and Communications. Though our major commitment is at an end, we still maintain ties with Nana and try to assist her as we are able.

Wednesday Meals

Missions committee provides a meal before Wednesday evening services every other month. We appreciate your generous donations.

Education

This year we committed to financially support fellow OSLC member Jen Astrup for one year. Jen works with Campus

Crusade For Christ in Minneapolis, providing outreach to college students.

Missions committee participated in the 2 mission fairs held at Our Saviors this past year, by providing an informational table. Several people expressed interest in becoming members. We always welcome new members. Our meetings are from 6-7 PM the third Tuesday of the month, immediately preceding the council meeting. Please join us!

Committee members:

Denise Bakkum, Chair; Jean Anderson; Paul Anderson; Wendy Blue, Council Liaison; Barb Bustamante; Marcie Felix; Virginia Moses; Beth Olson; Neal Philbrick; Jeanne Rodriguez.

Spirits Movin/ Team

Re-Rooting In Our Faith

Team Members - Scott Brusven (Chair), Carol Beede, Lauri Buchwitz, Kristi Invie, Karen Mellum, Loren Mellum, Kristi Morsch, Ryan Nelson, Deb Watne, Lauri Winterfeldt, and Tessa Moon Leiseth (Coach)

Visioning Bible Passage - Hebrews 12:1-3 (*The Message*)

Do you see what this means—all these pioneers who blazed the way, all these veterans cheering us on? It means we'd better get on with it. *Strip down, start running—and never quit!* No extra spiritual fat, no parasitic sins. Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we're in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed—that exhilarating finish in and with God—he could put up with anything along the way: Cross, shame, whatever. And now he's there, in the place of honor, right alongside God. When you find yourselves flagging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item, that long litany of hostility he plowed through. That will shoot adrenaline into your souls!

Tag Line - **“Strip Down, Start Running and NEVER Quit!”**

What is the Spirits Movin' Team

We are a group of believers from this faith community. We have been called by the Spirit to re-root our community into a deeper, and more mission-filled, spiritual journey. This community of faith has deep traditions and is on the brink of something even bigger. God has called a group of us to action to prayerfully navigate this movement. He has called us, as believers, not only to worship but to teach, to engage and send our fellow believers out into the community both here in the Fargo-Moorhead area and throughout the world.

In Matthew 28 we were called and charged to go forth and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Re-Rooting process is training our team to Move our faith community, to work outward from our walls and to be missionaries in our community.

Ways We Are Movin'

The Backwards Offering

In the spring of 2011 our team received three anonymous gifts of \$500 for our team to do a reverse offering. During two worship services we put several \$100 bills into the offering plate and sent them back through the congregation with three simple rules for taking them: 1) you could not use the money for yourself or your

family, 2) you could not use it for Our Savior's, 3) the money must be used in the community.

\$700 was taken and seven stories began. The stories are now being shared in our worship services and when they have all been told, the team will send another \$800 back through the congregation for another round of Movin' in the spring.

Summer Picnic

One of the backwards offering gifts began the First Annual Summer's Night Out Picnic. The Bluegrass & BBQ committee used their money to kick-off this community-wide north Moorhead picnic in Hansmann park. Over 450 people attended. There were many activities sponsored by groups and members of Our Savior's: Our Savior's Lutheran Women donated a Kids Play Area; Lutheran Men in Mission donated root beer; Our Savior's brought in Tangled Blue to provide worship music; Our Savior's youth provided activities for kids; the Quilters donated a quilt for the door prize; Color Me Green Eco Consulting donated the compostable plates and toxic-free face paint for the event; Randy Morsch donated cups; many other donations of services and supplies were received from around the community as well.

What's Next

During the next year we will continue to work with the ELCA's Re-Rooting training team to further our learning and deepen our relationships with the members of Our Savior's. We will continue to open up to the Spirit and allow it to Move through us in a number of ways. We will continue to engage our community of faith to walk, run, and sprint with us throughout the year. Our team will also join the Council, and the Vibrant Faith Youth Ministry team to determine our Core Values as a community of faith and allow them to better guide us in the ongoing mission of Our Savior's. Throughout the year, we will ask ourselves and the members of Our Savior's "how is the spirit ready to move you in a new direction?" We as a faith community are Movin'... we as a team are called to embrace the spirit... Our Savior's, it's time for us to strip down, start running and never quit!

Altar Guild

All monthly meetings were started with prayer and bible study.

This past year we have prepared communion on Sundays and Wednesdays. We have maintained the candles, altar and changed paraments as needed.

Some members of the altar guild took part in Tables Escapes with a table themed Hobbies and Collectibles. It went well.

We have served several Wednesday night meals in the past year, which were successful. We are continuing to do more Wednesday night meals in the future.

We discussed re-doing the baptismal banner to coordinate with the other paraments. We are currently working on the details of possibly having the baptismal banner match the paraments.

June, July and August we did not meet.

Thank you to Concordia for the new tables. During Mitten Days in October 215 mittens were made.

In November Katie and Pete Morsch talked about their time in Jordan.

We are looking into refurbishing the baptismal font/pitcher/bowl.

Christmas on 13th Street was successful and everyone involved had a great time.

In December we had a beautiful and fun Christmas party with great food and fellowship.

Also in 2011 we had several long-standing and valuable members of Altar Guild retire. They are: Geri Rogholt, Harriett Sirjord, Virginia Johnson, Judy Evernham and Doris Larson. They will be missed.

God Bless

Submitted by Secretary Christie Clarey

Apple Pie Extravaganza

Again this year, a faithful group of workers volunteered to make and bake apple pies in the kitchen and fellowship hall on the 18th and 19th of October. Each day there were about 30 volunteers plus the women who offered to bake pies in their home.

Donations given to the project included money, apples, flour, Crisco and an individual who donated 100 pounds of sugar. In two days, 250 pies were made and sold for a profit of \$2527. The money was donated to Catch The Spirit Fund to apply to the principal of our loan at State Bank and Trust.

The Committee extends a thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to the pie baking fundraiser.

Donna Anderson, Joan Bommen, Opal Cameron, Dorothy Dale, Bonnie Thom

BeFriender Ministry

A Listening Presence

Our Savior's BeFriender ministers have provided a confidential listening presence to members of this congregation since 2009. During 2011, BeFriender ministers dedicated more than 135 hours which included visiting with and listening to members during challenging times in their lives, and of continuing education for and evaluation of their ministry.

This ministry has been a blessing not only to those being befriended, but also to the BeFriender ministers themselves. We look forward to serving those in need of a listening presence throughout 2012.

Please view the BeFriender Ministry page of Our Savior's website for contact information or to make a referral.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki Harrison
BeFriender Ministry Leadership Team

Home Communion Ministry

Home Communion Ministry was organized in November 2005. Since then, 15 Home Communion Ministers have been visiting and bringing communion to 40 members who can not come to church on a monthly basis. If you know of a member of Our Savior's who needs a visit from a Home Communion Minister please call the church or call me.

Marlene Johnson, Leader
Home Communion Ministry Program
218-790-0354

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Faith and love is in each stitch made from beginning to end

In the beginning of 2011 a member of our congregation wanted to begin a prayer shawl ministry. She made 4 prayer shawls to start and a plea was made to our ladies and the prayer shawls just started appearing. What a blessing. Ginny Carlson started a knitting class on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. We start at 6:30pm and you can bring your shawl to work on or learn how to knit. Stay as long as you can but we are done by 9pm. The shawls can be either crocheted or knit.

At the end of December, 55 prayer shawls have been made and 43 have been given out. Five of them went to India with the delegation that visited our church in September. We have received many thankful messages from those who have been given the shawls. One said that the shawl is such a comfort to her as her shoulders bother her and she takes a nap with the shawl wrapped over her shoulder. One said her shawl was such a comfort to her and she had it on her chair that she sat in when she prayed. The prayer shawls are for anyone who is hurting. Please feel free to take one for anyone you know or hear about. You can call the church or call me. They are to be given away.

Marlene Johnson
218-790-0354

Our Savior's Lutheran Women

Purpose Statement

As a community of women, created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.

The executive board of the OSLW meets the first Thursday of the month at 6:30pm. We met 11 times during the year to plan and prepare for the events of the year.

September Fall Kick Off featured "Apron Stories Theme" There were many interesting stories about the apron that were worn that evening. We approved the budget for the year and election and installation of new officers Ten ladies from Our Savior's attended the Fall Cluster Gathering at Glyndon Lutheran Church.

Our October meeting was attended by Carrie Brusven. She asked that we stop using Styrofoam cups for Sunday morning coffee. The board did vote that we use glass coffee cups and would only use the Styrofoam cups when requested.

In November we had our Thank Offering Brunch. "Thankful Hearts" was the theme Norma Erickson was our speaker and several other thankful stores were shared.

December. was a very busy month. We had our OSLW Christmas Party with gifts exchanged between prayer partners. The

Cloggers from Detroit Lakes were our program and they were very enjoyable.

A week later we had our first Christmas on 13th. The ladies of Our Savior's are the best bakers, lefsa and krumkake makers. There was more than 150 dozen cookies plus lefse, krumkake and breads made for a very successful bake sale.

January 2011 a Prayer Shawl Ministry was started. Ginny Carlson started a knitting class for anyone who wanted to learn how to knit. Which meets the third Tuesday of the month. This ministry has become very successful. Many prayer shawls have been made and given out during the year.

In March the board served a Lenten supper.

In April we had Tablescapecs. "Hobbies and Collectibles" was the theme.

New ovens were purchased and installed in May. Also we donated \$250 toward the riding lawn mower and \$150 toward the new website.

In June we hosted the All City Bible Study with Pastor Patrick led the bible study and

he also sang a song. Melissa played the piano. The offering was donated to Rape & Abuse Center.

Several ladies attended the Cluster 5, 6 & 7 Bible Retreat in Detroit Lakes at the Holiday Inn.

In July Carol Peddycoart and Norma Swanson attended the Triennial Women's Convention in Spokane, WA. They gave a report on their trip in September kick off. Also in July the OSLW pledged \$100.00 a month for a year for Campus Crusade for Christ for Jen Astrup.

In August the OSLW sponsored a bounce house at the community picnic that Our Savior's had at Hansmann Park on August 24.

Respectfully submitted by,
Marlene Johnson and Carol Meyer

REVENUES

	Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Budget
Activities & Programs	306.35	325.00
Offerings	380.00	600.00
WELCA Thankoffering	564.52	200.00
Sunday Coffee	1,519.98	1,500.00
Funerals	4,380.00	3,200.00
Fundraising	3,650.93	2,770.00
Rentals	290.00	120.00
Serving Units	1,577.00	2,150.00
Weddings	0.00	70.00
TOTAL REVENUES	12,668.78	10,935.00

EXPENSES

Activities Expense	506.33	225.00
WELCA (1/2 Prior Year Offering)	364.25	400.00
WELCA (Thankoffering)	564.52	50.00
Cluster Offering (Spring)	50.00	50.00
Cluster 6 Bible Retreat (Jan)	50.00	50.00
Cluster Offering (Fall)	50.00	50.00
NW MN SWO Offering (June)	100.00	100.00
Triennial Yearly Offering	100.00	100.00
Sunday Coffee	1,444.61	1,200.00
NW MN SWO Convention Delegate	51.00	60.00
Triennial Convention	2,250.00	750.00
NW MN Synod Conference Expense	85.00	85.00
Funerals	2,717.73	2,500.00
Fundraising	853.21	750.00
Kitchen Equipment	84.27	400.00
Kitchen Supplies	726.01	1,100.00
Churches United	150.00	150.00
Dorothy Day House	100.00	100.00
Eventide Foundation	100.00	100.00
Food Pantry (March)	100.00	100.00
Golden Living Center	40.00	40.00
Hospice of the Red River Valley	100.00	100.00
Larson Mollidrem Scholarship	100.00	100.00
Lost & Found Ministries	100.00	100.00
Lutheran Campus Ministries	100.00	100.00
Maasai Scholarship Fund	100.00	100.00
Missionary for a Day	100.00	100.00
New Life Center	100.00	100.00
Oak Grove Lutheran High School	100.00	100.00
OSLC 3rd Grade Bible Fund	100.00	100.00
OSLC Good Samaritan Fund	250.00	250.00
OSLC Quilters	100.00	100.00
OSLC Quilters (non-budgeted)	50.00	0.00
OSLC Youth	100.00	100.00
OSLC Youth Mission	200.00	200.00
OSLC Youth Senior Quilts (non-budgeted)	50.00	0.00
Pathways	50.00	50.00
Recovery Worship	100.00	100.00
YWCA Shelter	100.00	100.00
Women in Need	600.00	600.00
Miscellaneous	724.41	50.00
Officers Expense	0.00	50.00
Stationary and Stamps	0.00	75.00

Total Expenses	13,711.34	10,935.00
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OUR SAVIORS LUTHERAN WOMEN

Balance Sheet
August 31, 2011

CURRENT ASSETS

Checking - State Bank	\$ 2,171.12
Savings - Kitchen Remodeling	9,877.09

TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>\$ 12,048.21</u>
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Hannah Circle

The Hannah Circle meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month in the Larsen Lounge.

Our members save our dimes and bring them each month to be given to the Good Samaritan Fund. This year we gave \$140.00 to the Fund.

We, also donated Canned Fruit to the New Life Center and brought items for making Layettes. Our Worship Offering for 2011 was \$135.00.

One of our Members addresses several hundred Christmas cards to bring to Nursing Homes in the area.

We have 16 members and always Welcome new members.

Mildred Thompson, Chairman

New Life Center Auxiliary

The New Life Center has provided shelter and food for about 101 people, mostly men this past year. Walmart has provided 5,635 lbs of fruit, 9,381 lbs of dry foods and 2.8 tons of fresh meat to the center.

Ninety six men live at the center per day. 48 % have jobs, 10 % are on SSCI and they all help around the center.

Thank you to all those of our congregation who provided unwrapped hats, sweat shirts, underwear, gloves etc for their Christmas. It was very much appreciated as they would otherwise have no Christmas presents.

They also will take any good used clothing and furniture for their store which some of the residents can purchase as sometimes they come with nothing on their back.

Norma Swanson & Joan Jensen, delegates from OSLC.

Churches United for the Homeless (CUFH)

President: Pastor Paula Mehmel; Vice President: Jon Rustvang; Treasurer: Lowell Bottrell; Secretary: Barb Anderson-Lewis; Past President: Jim Meier; Board members: Jon Aarsvold, Linda Coates, Matt Donahue, Gracia Fulwiler, Mchelle Kommer, Ellen Mahli, Pastor Loren Mellum, Sandra Roers, and Laverne Sanstad.

www.churches-united.org

This facility is located at 1901 1st Avenue North in Moorhead. Director, Jane Alexander, says CUFH is the only shelter within 250 miles able to accommodate single men and women and both one- and two-parent families. CUFH offers a safe haven to those most in need, a chance to reflect on the direction they wish for their lives, and the opportunity to utilize our community's many resources in achieving their goals.

Clay County Housing
Redevelopment Authority
(CCHRA)

CCHRA opened their 24 unit apartment building next door to CUFH in 2010, offering transitional housing for people who start at CUFH. It also cooperates with CUFH in serving meals and the many services the residents need to meet their goals. This is proving to be very successful with its proximity to CUFH.

Gourmet Soup Kitchen

October held the Third Annual Gourmet Soup Kitchen at the School's Center at St. Anne's & Joachim Catholic Church. More than 500 people came out for a night of warm, home-cooked soup and festivities in support of CUFH.

Serving the Homeless

On an average, CUFH serves approximately 300 meals a day and are on track to serve over 120,000 meals during 2012. Each day, three meals and two snacks are served, five days a week and hot brunch and supper on weekends.

Fill the Dome resulted in over 100 tons of food and \$75,000.00.

Member churches pledged turkeys and some donors to distribute Thanksgiving Food Baskets before that holiday.

A Christmas Eve dinner and a Christmas Day worship service, was held with volunteers distributing gifts to the residents.

Thank you for all your help and contributions. Volunteers and money donations are always needed. Continue your support and prayers for the less fortunate at CUFH.

Sincerely,

Brad Cusey
OSLC CUH Representative

Northwester Minnesota Synod Bishop's Report

Larry Wohlrabe

"Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus."
Philippians 3:13b-14

The Apostle Paul's eager word to the Philippian believers captures my hopeful mood as I look back over what God has been doing in our synod during 2011. A year ago we were keenly aware of the congregations, members and financial support we had *lost*. But 2011 has felt like a **turnaround year**. Here are four areas of synod life where we on the synod staff have seen God's hand at work in 2011.

Passionate Disciples

Across our synod discipleship-language is becoming more "second nature" to many folks. With regularity, persons are freely naming ways they see God active in their lives. What sweet music this is!

Congregations are responding to the *Next Generation* vision that I discussed in my monthly columns in our *Northern Lights* e-letter. Two Vibrant Faith Ministries (VFM) training events were well-attended, and two clusters of congregations are in coaching relationships with VFM staff members. Our synod continued to host life-changing youth gatherings for senior high and middle school youth, and we look forward to sending hundreds of youth and adults to the 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering.

Following a period of sluggishness in the call process during 2009-2010, things heated up in 2011 as 20 pastors accepted Calls in our congregations (eight of them coming from other synods). We ordained five seminary graduates to serve in our synod and commissioned one new Associate in Ministry. Your synod staff also regularly convenes "area consultations" that gather leaders from neighboring congregations to discuss cooperation in ministry, including establishment of new multi-point parishes.

During 2011 congregations have significantly increased their giving toward ELCA/synod mission support and the NW MN Synod Fund for Mission. Also, some 200 individuals have contributed to our synod's annual appeal, *Forward Together*.

A lively conversation about Rethinking Stewardship also continues. To stir the pot we had spring events on "Money and the Church," autumn gatherings with singer-storyteller Nate Hogue, and ongoing "Good

Conversations" about stewardship (starting in 2011 in the northern third of the synod).

Our School for Lay Ministry offered courses in New Testament, Old Testament and church history with outstanding teachers like Scott Frederickson, Walter Sundberg and Rolf Jacobson.

Engaged Leaders

In our synod we engage lay leaders and church workers in ways that call forth their best gifts, develop their skills, and inspire them to serve. To this end, last February and March we hosted a series of "EEEvents: Engaging, Enlightening, Energizing for Ministry," and our synod staff led discussions on how to give ministry away—recruiting and equipping persons to share congregational ministries.

Our synod was one of 30 (out of 65) synods to have 65% of its ELCA Board of Pensions members take the "Embody Health" Health Risk Assessment. As a result congregations received a 2% reduction in health insurance costs, and the synod received a grant for \$18,000+ to promote wellness initiatives like the Living Well Retreat held in November.

Pastors, rostered lay leaders and other church workers engaged in theological reflection for ministry at the Synod Theological Day with Pr. Bob Sorensen of Fertile, as well as the annual Theology for Ministry Conference at the Fair Hills Resort, with Dr. Karoline Lewis and Pr. Bob Quam.

We also continue to enhance our synod's work with the ELCA Candidacy Process, as our candidacy committee walks with about twenty persons who are preparing for ELCA rostered ministries.

A highlight of 2011 was the full establishment of a partnership called The

Fabric of Mutual Ministry (FMM)—linking our synod, the Eastern ND Synod, Concordia College, Luther Seminary and Trinity Lutheran Church of Moorhead. Spurred by a generous Lilly Foundation grant FMM is fostering an excellent program of First Call Theological Education core events and colleague groups for pastors serving in their first parish calls.

Fresh Starts

Despite losing eight congregations to disaffiliation in 2011 (compared to seventeen lost in 2010), we're relieved that only two congregations of our synod are awaiting disaffiliation votes at year's end. The decline in disaffiliation activity allows us to focus on the 22 congregations that weathered disaffiliation votes but have remained in our ELCA family.

Out of the ashes of a disaffiliation vote in Hawley, Minnesota we've birthed Living Grace Lutheran Church. The fledgling congregation began holding worship services, received an ELCA mission development grant, called Sr. Krista Anderson as mission developer, and recently held its "Charter Sunday."

During 2011 we also saw much work done through outreach ministries like Waters of Grace, in the Frazee-Vergas area (Pr. Phil Johnson is the mission developer), as well as The Project-FM which called Pr. Adam Copeland as mission developer to connect with young adults in the Fargo-Moorhead area. Plans are moving forward for Peoples Church's second site in Cass Lake, led by Pr. Bob Kelly.

Thanks to the good work of several new "mission tables" (teams) the synod spearheaded multiple initiatives to assist established congregations in renewal and

evangelical witness. We've offered training events such as "Coaching 101," Re-Rooting in God's Mission, a Creative Prayer Retreat, and an Advent Prayer Practices Retreat. In June we launched a Congregational Leadership Academy (CLA), to offer training in evangelism and stewardship.

Renewed Partnerships

Every synod is a "walking together" of God's people for the sake of God's mission. We cultivated this partnership during a dynamite synod assembly, May 14-15 that was preceded by a standing-room-only Town Hall with Bp. Mark Hanson. During the assembly we adopted a resolution on Mission Directions 2011 and elected a new synod vice president: Allen Westby, Pelican Rapids.

Three months later, 23 voting members from the NW MN Synod participated in the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Orlando, FL. The assembly passed a social statement

on genetics, adopted the Living into the Future Together (LIFT) task force report, and approved the ELCA Malaria Campaign.

Throughout 2011 members of the synod's congregations prayed and gave generously to aid victims of natural disasters across the world: tornado victims in Wadena; flood survivors in the Red River Valley and Minot, ND; victims of disasters in Japan, Africa and Central America.

We supported Lutheran Campus Ministry of Minnesota as it moved through a major restructuring that places more responsibilities on local campus ministry boards. In July, I preached at a Campus Ministry Conference sponsored by our own Lutheran campus ministry at Bemidji State University.

We welcomed new leaders to two of our synod's valued ministry partners: Concordia College, where Dr. William Craft began as president (I served on the search

committee), and Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, which installed Ms. Jodi Harpstead as Chief Executive Officer in September.

Our long-standing Companion Synod partnership with the Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church (AELC) of southern India received a shot-in-the-arm in September, as we welcomed Bishop Suneel and four other leaders of the AELC as they made a two-week pilgrimage of faith and friendship on the territory of our synod.

God bless your congregation. Thanks for your partnership in Christ's service!

*Bishop Larry Wohlrahe
Northwestern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.*

www.nwmnsynod.org