

Faithfulness

As I write these words, spring has finally arrived. Who would have believed we had to cancel worship services in mid-April!

One word that comes to me as I ponder the ministry at Our Savior's Lutheran Church is "Faithfulness". The Capital Campaign, "Faith in Action," has been completed. What a wonderful response! Karl Wunderlich, our Campaign Chairman reports that the figures as of May 9 are 173 pledges for a total of \$436,894. Along with this comes an anonymous donor gift of 20% of the total pledged. Which means we have exceeded our goal of \$500,000. Wow! (A separate article on Faith in Action appears in this newsletter). Usually, during an Interim Ministry, most big projects are put on hold awaiting a new permanent Pastor. But here at Our Saviors, you responded saying "our mutual ministry will continue". This is a great example of faithfulness.

Our ministry continues:

Worship attendance is strong. New Members joined in April and more families will join this month.

We will be sending nine young people and three chaperones to the National Youth Gathering in Houston. Your faithfulness enabled us to raise the funds to make this life changing event happen.

This month, a committee will meet with our Synod to begin work on the Ministry Site Profile document. When completed, this Profile is the first step in the process of calling a new Pastor.

Yes, we are a faithful/vibrant congregation. Thanks be to God - and to you.

See you in church,

Interim Pastor Dennis E. Ellisen

Confirmation News

Seventh Graders Headed to Camp—Confirmation camp is almost here! Our Savior's is sending six confirmation students to Imago Dei Village in Clintonville from June 10 to 15. This is a great opportunity for students to live out their faith, meet new friends and experience nature. Can't wait to hear all of their camp stories when they return!

Final Planning Stages for the Big Event! - June 27-July 1 – ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston

Chaperones Cary Myska, Stacey Kreuter, Ben Paulson and nine of our high school youth (Addie Fredrickson, Grace Hagner, Cammi Kreuter, Marissa Myska, Wyatt Paulson, Adrianna Radig, Maya Schmidt, Sophia Schmidt and Lauren Wilharm) are excited for the learning, fellowship, service projects and lifelong friendships that will come from this year's National Youth Gathering in Houston.

Please pray for our group as they head into a thrilling week with 30,000 new friends. The group will leave from Our Savior's around 4 a.m. on June 27 to fly to Houston. Watch for pictures on Facebook as our youth experience a faith-filled week they will always remember!

'The Shack'

I am Ruthie Melzer, and my life has been changed forever by a senseless crime. I would love to spend time discussing the movie 'The Shack' with you. After watching the movie, I see things that I need to do, some changes that need to be made, and forgiveness that needs to be given.

I am not sure who has read the book, seen the movie, or both, but Marcie Kimmes and I are going to show the movie and have a discussion afterward. I have a lot of work to do in my life and I found the movie helpful in many ways. I am speaking from the perspective of being the victim of a crime that took my husband's life and changed my life forever. We won't be tearing the movie apart theologically, but I want to speak to the power it can have on a person who needs advice.

God's Peace,
Ruthie Melzer

Baptism Class

If your family will be planning a baptism soon because of an anticipated or recent birth, OR if you are a person of any age and have not been baptized but would like to be, OR if you recently had your child baptized and have not yet attended class, you are invited to a one-session baptismal preparation class.

The next class is scheduled for Sunday, June 24, at 10:00 a.m. Please contact the church office at 725-3956 if you are interested in attending or are planning a baptism.

New Member Class

Free to Give Away! Memberships in a thriving, healthy, Lutheran congregation to anyone who is looking for a church home that not only teaches and preaches the good news of Jesus Christ but puts that love into action through many community and global ministries. Not sure? Need more info? Have questions? Call Pastor Dennis Ellisen at 725-3956.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION:

Saturday, June 9, at 6:00 p.m. in the church library. Call Cheryl Timm at 725-3956 to indicate you are coming.

NEW MEMBER WEEKEND:

Members received during worship services on June 23 and 24.

“God’s Work. Our Hands” - Yes, YOU can make a difference! Here are some opportunities to share God’s love in our community.

Supporting Our Missions

MILWAUKEE MISSION TRIP - Our mission group is ready to go to Milwaukee on June 20-22! We’ll be feeding the homeless, working with preschoolers, and helping at a food pantry. Please pray for our group while we are away. We’ll fill you in when we return!

SAVE THE DATE! - God’s Work. Our Hands. Day in Sunday, September 9. It’s an opportunity to celebrate who we are – a faith community saved by grace ... called to love and serve others. Do you have an idea for a service project or are you interested in joining the planning team? Contact Marcie Kimmes or Ruth Melzer at 725-3956.

2019 GUATEMALA MISSION TRIP - The planning has begun for the mission trip to Guatemala, March 23-31, 2019. The dates coincide with many Spring Breaks in the area. In 2019, Easter is April 21. In order to keep the costs low, we plan to fundraise as much as we can. We will be requesting a deposit in September of 2018. If you are interested, please talk to Marcie Kimmes or Rich/Pam Garman (920-915-2272, pamgarman2@gmail.com).

H.O.P.E. (Help Open People’s Eyes to mental health issues & brain illnesses) TEAM TIDBIT - When we think about mental illness, we don’t always think of it in the same way as cancer, diabetes, heart disease, etc. *BUT mental illness is just that, an illness that affects the brain.* If you are struggling, please don’t suffer alone. Talk to someone who can support you and walk with you in your journey to live well. *Together there is hope!*

Are You a Thrivent Member?

If you are, we’d love to know! There are opportunities for you to help the church through the Action Team initiative and Choice Dollars program. Please contact Marcie Kimmes at mkimmes@our-saviors.org or call 725-3956.

Summer Dinner and a Movie Night

Mark your calendar for Thursday, June 7 at 5:30 p.m. We’ll be showing and discussing the movie, ‘*The Shack*’ (rated PG13).

The film takes us on a father's uplifting spiritual journey. *After suffering a family tragedy, Mack Phillips spirals into a deep depression causing him to question his innermost beliefs. Facing a crisis of faith, he receives a mysterious letter urging him to an abandoned shack deep in the Oregon wilderness. Despite his doubts, Mack journeys to the shack and encounters an enigmatic trio of strangers led by a woman named Papa. Through this meeting, Mack finds important truths that will transform his understanding of his tragedy and change his life forever.*

RSVP on the sign-up display in the gathering area or contact Ruthie Melzer for more info.

LUTHER TIDBIT

**‘I CANNOT AND WILL NOT RECALL ANYTHING, FOR TO GO AGAINST CONSCIENCE IS NEITHER RIGHT NOR SAFE. HERE I STAND, I CAN DO NO OTHER, SO HELP ME GOD. AMEN.’
-MARTIN LUTHER**

Men's Breakfasts

The men's Bible study meets on the second and fourth Saturday of every month. We meet at 8:00 a.m. in the meeting room of Perkins Restaurant across from Wal-Mart. This month we meet on June 9 and 23. Come and join us. All men welcome.

OSLC Mission Quilters

Come see how much fun we have! This month we meet in the church gym on:

June 7, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

June 21, 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

Women's Book Club

The book club at OSLC welcomes you to join our friendly group of 10 to 12 women. We generally meet at 6:30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month in the church library. This month we meet on June 26. Come join us!

Do You Visit Rummage Sales?

If you enjoy checking out those neighborhood sales (or local thrift stores), please consider picking up a few things for one of our mission outreach programs. Here's what we need.

New or "gently used" baby clothing, sizes 6 to 24 months:

- t-shirts (long-sleeved or short-sleeved)
- sleepers or gowns, without feet if possible (we can modify as needed)
- baby socks
- cardigan sweaters or jackets (with hoods, if possible)
- baby receiving blankets (the cotton or flannel type, not fleece)
- new cloth diapers (flat-fold or prefold)

All items can be dropped off in the pantry closet across from the church office. We'll send our gifts to Lutheran World Relief this fall, and every small donation will make a huge difference in someone's life! Thank you!

Remember Us When You're Away

There is always the temptation to forget about our church or our God. This is especially true when our summer travels take us away from our usual routines. Remember to worship with us this summer, and bring your visiting family or friends. Worship wherever you are when you travel. Send your offering to the church by mail if you are not in town, or drop it off at the church office. **HAVE A WONDERFUL, RELAXING SUMMER and REMEMBER TO INCLUDE GOD IN YOUR PLANS!**

Prayer Shawls Needed

Our supply of shawls is dwindling, specifically bridal and baptismal shawls. Knitted or crocheted shawls are needed if the ministry is to continue. Recipients of shawls have included those grieving the loss of a loved one, facing surgery, and even hurricane victims. White shawls have been given to brides and small shawls have been given to babies.

A supply of yarn in basic colors and white is usually available at the church in the room housing the food pantry. You are welcome to provide yarn in a color of your choice. Patterns can be found in the tract rack near Ruthie's office. Suggested sizes for infant shawls is approximately 30 square inches and an adult shawl utilizing the pattern available uses five skeins of yarn is approximately 50 inches long. Completed shawls may be dropped off at the church office or the closet across from the office.



Help Wanted Your Church Needs You!

Tech Troubleshooter - Are you a tech savvy, work behind-the-scenes type of person? We're looking for an individual or two to help us "troubleshoot" issues with our tech system as they arise.

Sermon Videographer - We are starting to share Pastor's sermon on our Facebook page and a new OSLC YouTube channel. We need volunteers each weekend (doesn't matter which service). So if you can push a button (iPad provided) and upload a video, we need you! Contact Marcie Kimmes or Debbie Burmeister to learn more about either of these opportunities.

Final Call for Books

We are still collecting books for our youth to bring to the Houston National Youth Gathering. All donated books will be distributed at community book fairs, camps and other events around the city as part of the Gathering's Service Learning experience.

Look for the list of books that are being collected by the Blast Off for Books Donation Box in the Gathering Area. We will be collecting books until June 10. They can be *new or gently used*. Contact Karen at kwhitmer@our-saviors.org with questions.

Faith in Action

Mortgage Retirement Campaign
"Together We Can Get It Done"
Goal: \$500,000

The results are in and our Mortgage Retirement Campaign was more than a huge success!

In 2009, the upgrade to our church facilities resulted in a \$1.8 million mortgage. After three three-year capital campaigns, this year we found ourselves with \$481,000 remaining on the mortgage and the desire to retire it once and for all. Rick Carlson and his building committee members Kristi Armstrong, Barb Gossen, Kevin Hillegas, Steve Kueck, Tim Moe, Ken Schmidt and Karl Wunderlich quickly reassembled to take on this final chapter. Our goal was set at \$500,000 to pay off the loan and to replace the leaky gym roof. Then an anonymous donor stepped forward to issue a challenge to us. Since we only had 94 out of 430 giving units contributing to the mortgage retirement, the donor set a goal of 150 giving units to be involved. If we could reach the 150 giving units, the donor would contribute 20 percent of the amount pledged by those units not to exceed \$100,000. What an exciting opportunity!

Well, the results are in and as of this writing, they are:

176 Pledges

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Amount Pledged: | \$438,622.25 |
| Plus 20% Match: | \$ 87,724.45 |
| Total Raised: | \$526,346.70 |

So many thanks are due all around. First, let us give thanks to God. His Holy Spirit is alive and well and working at Our Savior's. Thank you to Rick Carlson and his building committee (along with committee members unable to participate in this latest activity: Gene Coy, Kelly Arens and Pastor Cath Mode) for taking on this final challenge to pay off the mortgage. Thank you to Ann Moe for creating our awesome pledge thermometers. Thank you to our Interim Pastor Dennis Ellisen for championing us. And, THANK YOU to all of you for stepping up with pledges, proving that "Together We Can Get It Done". What a powerful tagline. And, what powerful evidence of what we can do when we all work together.

This is a remarkable achievement for any congregation to accomplish let alone one in transition! It will speak volumes to prospective pastors during the call process. Maybe more importantly, this also creates an even tighter bond amongst us to have pulled together to tackle such a considerable challenge. We know that with God, together we can accomplish anything. It doesn't get any better than that. I am so proud and grateful to be a part of this congregation with all of you. Thank you again.

With God's blessings and my heartfelt thanks,
Sue Schultz
Council President

Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will repay him for his deed. ~ Proverbs 19:17

Generous Kids...

Feeding America

Thanks to all of our youth and parents who volunteered at Feeding America on May 2. In less than two hours, our group packed nearly 1,500 pounds of food ... or enough to feed about 1,000 families.

According to Feeding America's volunteer coordinator, it would have cost nearly \$1,400 and 60 hours for Feeding America's staff to complete the project. What a great effort from our team!



Generosity is...

...saying 'yes' when someone asks. Have you said 'yes' recently? You just never know where that 'yes' will lead you—but you will be blessed. That is God's promise.

Opportunities For Giving...

The Foundation

This fund has its own constitution and governing board. The pastor attends but does not have a vote. The working principal is that grants are made for educational or religious purposes that are beyond the ongoing ministries of the General Fund. Contributions can be made directly by using the offering envelopes and designation 'Foundation'. You may also choose to designate the Foundation in your will or to establish a Charitable Trust.

Generous Congregation...

Unified Budget YTD

Through April

Income \$ 150,370.47

Expenses \$ 157,444.19

(\$ 7,073.72)

Memorials Received

A special thank you to those who remembered

Midge Boehm

Building Fund...

Through April

**Remaining on Loan:
\$470,994.98**

**Principal Paid on Loan
\$ 20,617.40**

**Total Contributions:
\$ 33,534.68**