

## February Events

February is usually a month where things slow down in the life of an ELCA Church. It's traditionally the time between the frantic pace of the Christmas season and the introspection of the beginning of Lent. But here at Our Savior's, during the "slow time" there will be two events of great importance.

On Saturday, February 2, at 5 p.m. and Sunday, February 3, at 8 and 10:30 a.m., our worship services will focus on the "Souper Bowl of Caring." Yes, it is the day of the NFL Super Bowl. Many of us will watch the pigskin classic later in the day, (even though our beloved Packers will not be participating). But, at these services on this weekend, our youth will conduct the worship with the purpose of engaging all of us to care for others. Remember the Isaiah text from our last Sunday in January? Jesus stood up and read it in the synagogue.

*"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*

I will be present to share communion and also share a short homily on the theme. Colleen, our Youth Coordinator, has an article in this newsletter, describing how YOU can participate.

Then, on Sunday, February 10, at 9:15 a.m., your Annual Meeting will be held. This year, this important meeting will be held in between church services to encourage maximum participation. (8 a.m. worshippers can stay and 10:30 a.m. worshippers can come early.)

You won't want to miss this exciting meeting! The 2019 budget will be approved, a vital step in our church's life. In addition, you will hear some interesting reports. Marcie will report on the new Ministry Team concept, Karl Wunderlich will give an update on the Faith in Action building fund campaign, and Rick Carlson will share progress on the Call Committee.

Mark your calendars to be a part of these important events. We are the church gathered, participants of the ministry here at OSLC. Emmanuel, God is With Us.

God's Peace to you and your loved ones,

**Interim Pastor Dennis E. Ellisen**

## Confirmation News

February 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> are our **Souper Bowl of Caring** Youth Worship Services! The 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be putting on all three Weekend Services, and will be collecting donations of food and money for Father Carr's Place 2b.

## Looking Ahead

February 20—Thrivent Youth Event at 5:00. Come for snacks and a special presentation on savings and giving before confirmation begins.

## Calling all Cooks!

We are updating the volunteer schedule for Father Carr's and are in need of volunteers to prepare meals. A simple casserole card will be mailed to your house with the recipe. We would appreciate it if you could volunteer once or twice a year, depending on how many volunteers we get. A schedule will be made soon for the upcoming year. Please call Carmen Hass at 920-851-4461 or email [chass@new.rr.com](mailto:chass@new.rr.com) to volunteer.

## Souper Bowl of Caring

In the United States, over 41 million people, including over 13.1 million children suffer from the effects of hunger. In Wisconsin alone, this number has reached 609,360. That means that 1 in every 9 people in our state go without enough food to get by each day. While these numbers seem astronomical and frightening, we can make a difference in the fight against hunger, and we can start right here, in our own community.

This month, the Youth of Our Savior's will be joining with students around the country to tackle hunger in the United States through the *Souper Bowl of Caring*. On Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, our Youth will be coordinating the Worship Services. They will be reading, ushering, and giving the Children's Sermon, but most importantly, they will also be making a *huge* difference. **They will be collecting money and canned food items at each service, all of which will be donated to Father Carr's Place 2b.**

Our Savior's has had a partnership with Father Carr's for a number of years, having been a part of their meal ministry and participating in various donation drives. We are so excited to be able to help break down the barriers of hunger, and to do so in our very own community.

Last year, kids throughout the nation participating in the *Souper Bowl of Caring* raised over \$2,763,781, and donated 4,164,621 pounds of food. These goods were given to 2,586 charities. As these massive numbers show, even a small contribution, when given by many people, can lead to very big results.

We have the ability to make great strides to end hunger, and the *Souper Bowl of Caring* will provide us with a platform to do so.

In Gratitude, *Colleen Welsh, OSLC Youth Coordinator*



**“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***

**Guatemala Mission Trip**—On March 23 to 31, thirteen faithful OSLC members will be travelling to Antigua, Guatemala for an International Mission Trip building two homes for deserving families with the *From Houses to Homes* non-profit. You have a chance to “travel with us” by donating items for us to distribute. The following are suggested items:

- Crayons/markers, coloring books
- Kids, women’s or men’s new or used shoes (smaller sizes)
- Spanish/English primary books
- Toothpaste/brushes
- Sports items, tennis balls, soccer balls w/ pump
- Little girls’/womens’ new underwear

There will be a collection box in the Gathering Area beginning February 23. We hope to fill two extra suitcases! Muchas Gracias!

**Summer Mission Trip** – This year’s trip will take place mid-late June. We are in the initial planning stage but our hope is to once again partner with Camp Noah. Camp Noah is a safe, caring and fun camp for children who’ve been impacted by natural disasters. Visit [www.lssmn.org/camp\\_noah/](http://www.lssmn.org/camp_noah/) to learn more. It takes approximately 20-25 people to run a camp. Can you be one of them? Must be 13 or older. Contact Marcie Kimmes at [mkimmes@our-saviors.org](mailto:mkimmes@our-saviors.org)

Thank you for supporting OSLC Missions!

## **Coming Soon**

**Our Savior’s will have an APP.** The TEC (Technology-Evangelism-Communication) team is working on a mobile app that will be available to download soon. You’ll be able to view the calendar and events, look up Bible texts, view sermons, give a donation and more. Watch for more info coming soon!

## **TEC Team Update**

*Have you heard the news?* Our Savior’s will be installing an electronic messaging console (digital sign) very soon! The double-sided sign will be located on Commercial Street to have the most traffic visibility. We’ll be able to share info about our church, upcoming events and the Good News of Jesus Christ. Memorial funds were used to cover the cost.

## **A New Voice Feature**

In each upcoming Voice, we will feature the Pastoral Acts performed in the previous month or months. Please be sure to greet our new members when you see them at church.

### **January Pastoral Acts...**

*Baptisms* – none

*Weddings* -- none

*Funerals* – Richard McCrory  
(January 12, 2019)

*New Members*— there are five families joining January 19-20:

Robert & Ruth Crooks  
Rob & Indra Gibson, Taj & Suriya  
Tom & Carol Blank  
Mike & Stacy Blank  
Jim Henderson & Marge Christianson

## 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 February 9 and 16. 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:

February 7 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

February 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 February 26. Come join us!

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

We meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 9:30 am. Prayer shawls are shared for many reasons – weddings, baptisms and hospitalizations, to name a few. We need you so we can continue to spread the love of God and the strength of prayer though this ministry.

## Annual Meeting

The Congregational Annual Meeting will be held between services on Sunday, February 10, 2019. Please plan to attend this meeting to approve the church's 2019 budget, to hear about the call process status, to learn about ministry team changes and much more.

There will also be another budget review session ahead of the Annual Meeting for you to learn more information. It is February 3 at 9:15 a.m. We look forward to seeing you there.

## Ministry Teams Update

We're in the beginning stages of putting ministry teams together – some are full and some have opening for new people with new ideas. Our goal is to have teams of 5 – 7 people who are passionate about these specific areas. Each team will determine the needs of the ministry and how often to come together – whether in person or via email, text, online. *We don't want people to 'meet just to meet'. Quite the contrary, we want people to join together to make our ministries vibrant, relevant and impactful.*

This month, we're highlighting two of our teams:

**Learn & Grow** - Our faith doesn't just happen overnight; it's a life-long journey from birth until death. The Learn & Grow team will provide materials, resources and opportunities to nurture and grow in our faith. Team Members: Chris Wilharm (lead) - [wilharm97@yahoo.com](mailto:wilharm97@yahoo.com), Karen Schilke, Chris Crum, Colleen Welsh, Ruth Melzer. **Need 2-3 more team members.**

**Safety & Security** – This team is looking at ways to keep our members safe during worship and church events through building security, volunteer background checks, our child-safe policy and training. Team Members: Aaron Zemlock (lead) - [zemlock@gmail.com](mailto:zemlock@gmail.com), Kasey Konkle – staff administrator, Ben Lochner, Scott Hoelzel, Chris Swender – building. **Need 2-3 more team members.**

**Tech Booth Volunteers needed 10:30 service** – If you attend the 10:30 service, please consider being a part of our tech booth team. The 5 PM & 8 AM services are covered, but we need 2-4 people for the 10:30 services. *This is a simple, yet extremely important, part of our worship experience.* Training is provided – if you can press a button, you can do this task! Contact Marcie Kimmes at [mkimmes@our-saviors.org](mailto:mkimmes@our-saviors.org) or 725-3956.

*So what inspires you or gives you a sense of purpose? ... What can you offer to your church family to move our ministries forward? Please spend some time praying then contact Marcie at [mkimmes@our-saviors.org](mailto:mkimmes@our-saviors.org) OR sign-up in the gathering area. Welcome to the team!*

## Help Open People's Eyes to Mental Health and Brain Illnesses

The H.O.P.E. team invites you to attend a Youth Mental Health First Aid Training on Saturday, February 23, from 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. at the First English Lutheran Church Downtown Site (326 E. North St., Appleton). There is no charge for this training as it is funded by a generous grant.

Youth Mental Health First Aid is designed to teach parents, family members, caregivers, teachers, school staff, peers, neighbors, and other caring citizens how to help an adolescent (age 12-18) who is experiencing a mental health or addictions challenge or is in crisis. The course introduces common mental health challenges for youth, reviews typical adolescent development, and teaches a five-step action plan for how to help young people in both crisis and non-crisis situations. Topics covered include anxiety, depression, substance use, disorders in which psychosis may occur, disruptive behavior disorders (including AD/HD), and eating disorders. This training provides excellent information for any and all that are interested.

This event is open to the community. A certificate of completion will be given to each participant at the end of the eight hour training (please register only if you are able to attend the full training time). Lunch will be provided.

Please register in advance for this free training at [www.felc.com/forms](http://www.felc.com/forms) as space is limited.

## Offering Envelopes

If you haven't picked up your 2019 offering envelopes yet, please do so soon.

## Report From Mission Quilters

Near the end of 2017 we received a very welcome donation of funds from the nice folks at Thrivent thanks to Vernice and Keith Knudsen. The money was used to buy batting for our quilts. Doris Schmidt took the roll of batting home, cut it into quilt size pieces, and brought them to the church 'ready-to-use.' We are so grateful for her doing that for us, and thanks to Ken, too! The remainder of the Thrivent gift went to purchasing several twin flat sheets from area thrift stores that we use for quiltbacks.

Do you have a burning desire to join us? No sewing or quilting skills are necessary. If you can tie a knot, you can tie a quilt. We meet every 1st and 3rd Thursdays in the church gym. See you there!

## Moving Soon?

Please call the church office with your new mailing address if you plan to move or will be away temporarily. This will ensure that we have accurate records in our database as well as prevent having to pay extra postage for mail that is returned to church.

## Flu and Cold Season

At Our Savior's we care about you and your health. Here are some tips.

It's okay to not shake hands while passing the peace. Bumping elbows, flashing a "V" peace sign, or the "how ya doin" head bob are all acceptable. While we do our best to keep sanitizers available throughout the church, it may be a good practice to bring you own small bottle in your purse or pocket.

If you are feeling ill, please do not come to worship or volunteer. We will miss you dearly and pray for you, but by staying home you are preventing the germs from spreading to others and helping yourself get better and back to church quicker.

And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward. ~ Matthew 10:42

## Generous People...

### That's a Lot of Pork!

On behalf of Our Savior's, council members delivered 319 three-pound hams to the Boys' & Girls' Brigade for their Christmas giving program. That's 957 pounds of ham! Thank you to all who participated in raising money for the hams by donating to our noisy coin collections.

Thank you to Steve Gries for coordinating the purchase and delivery of the hams. And, thank you, Graham Bradley, Chris Crum, Steve Gries, Neal Schultz, Sue Schultz, Joan Terry and Aaron Zemlock for unloading and labeling the hams at the Brigade in the wee hours of December 20.

## Generous Congregation...

### Unified Budget YTD Through December

	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Actual</i>
<b>Income</b>	\$436,000.00	\$404,098.00
<b>Expenses</b>	<u>\$435,858.00</u>	<u>\$433,074.23</u>
	\$ 142.00	(\$ 28,976.23)

## Special Offerings ...

### Noisy Coin

Hams  
\$ 224.38

## Memorials Received...

A special thank you to those who remembered

*Hannah Gregory*

## Building Fund...

### Through December

<b>Remaining on Loan</b>	\$352,761.70
<b>Principal Paid on Loan</b>	\$138,820.68
<b>Total Contributions</b>	\$227,031.11
<b>Billed on Loan</b>	\$ 38,627.76
<b>Paid on Loan Over Billed Amount</b>	\$100,192.92