



July 1, 2014—June 30, 2015

**ANNUAL REPORT
TO THE
CONGREGATION**

Our Savior Lutheran Church

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2014/2015 Annual Report to the Congregation OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

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A Vision Statement outlines where we want to be. It answers the question, “Why are we here?” The vision statement communicates both the purpose and values of the organization.

OSLC’s Vision Statement

We are a community called and empowered by the Spirit to boldly proclaim God’s love and the good news of Jesus Christ, growing disciples who diligently and actively strive for peace, justice and healing in all the world.

A Mission Statement talks about how we will get to where we want to be. It answers the question, “What do we do?” The mission statement defines the organization’s purpose and primary objectives.

OSLC’s Mission Statement:

Living God’s love in Jesus Christ through word and sacraments, worship and prayer, learning and fellowship we grow disciples for service and outreach.

Guiding principles are those precepts that guide an organization throughout its life in all circumstances, irrespective of changes in its goals, strategies, or leadership. Eighteen years after adopting our original guiding principles, they remain unchanged. Our guiding principles reflect our hopes and prayers for our life together. They detail out our Lords’ great commandment that we love one another as God in Christ has loved us. They help us identify the kind of congregational culture that we want to nurture. Our guiding principles are not rules, requirements or regulations that mandate some behaviors while forbidding others. Our guiding principles express our desire to live together in a loving, honest and Christ-centered community.

OSLC’s Guiding Principles

- *Worship and pray in community*
- *Listen to, learn and live in God’s word*
- *Honor our gifts and value our differences*
- *Communicate openly and honestly*
- *Forgive and encourage one another*
- *Acknowledge our brokenness and pursue healing and reconciliation*
- *Serve and support those in need*
- *Create a safe place to share our joy and pain*
- *Bear witness to Jesus Christ in word and service*



2014/2015 Annual Report to the Congregation CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS - June 8 & Nov. 16, 2014

Sunday, June 8, 2014:

Meeting called to order by Judi Case, president.

Pastor Larry Thomas opened with prayer.

Life of the Congregation video produced by Vince Smith was shown.

Marilyn Larson gave a report from the synod assembly.

Barbara Extract presented a Mutual Ministry Committee report.

John Stamm gave reports on the Long Range Planning Committee and Global Mission Committee.

Judi Case provided an overview of Pastor Thomas' retirement and the synodical transition process.

Randy Halter presented the proposed 2014-2015 fiscal year budget as approved by the church council.

Connie Fletcher moved, Don Robertson second, to approve budget presented by Randy Halter.
Motion passed unanimous show of hands.

Pastor Larry Thomas closed the meeting in prayer.

Minutes taken by: Jeff Ziegler

Sunday, November 16, 2014:

Welcome

Pastor Ryan Fletcher welcomed the members and opened the meeting in prayer.

Introduction

Council President Judi Case introduced Interim Pastor Dick Christensen, who began his work at OSLC on Monday, November 10th.

Overview of OSLC Accomplishments – by Judi Case

We accomplish everything through God's love and peace

Social Concerns: bringing needs of community to our congregation to effectively serve

- Identified needs at Tiger Mountain high school: give supplies and provide a weekly breakfast for students
- Friends of Seniors: supplied 7 families with gifts and cards.

Global Missions

- Support John Yu and the Christopherson's
- Youth group took a mission trip to Peru in the summer
- Youth are planning another type of trip this summer

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Christian Ed

- Great teachers, coordinate curriculum
- Youth talk program on Sunday mornings
- Young Families group meets monthly
- Successful Share Save Spend program

Building & Grounds

- Landscaping improvements have been great
- Parking lot paving project
- Facility maintained

Women's Retreat

- The retreat is being planned: consider donating to retreat scholarships

Congregation-Managed Fellowship Hour Coffee and Snacks

Lisa Gillin introduced the new program.

- No longer managed by a council position
- Hospitality is between 9:30 and 11 AM
- Members can sign up to host the coffee and/or snacks – hosting includes helping clean-up.
- Sabrina Wick, Nursery Attendant will help with final clean up after 11AM service and will assist during the fellowship hour if she does not have any children in the nursery – her primary responsibility remains the nursery.
- Sign up to host coffee and/or snacks is on the bulletin board in Anderson Hall – host responsibilities are listed on the sheet.
- If no one signs up to host coffee and someone decides to make more coffee, that person is responsible for helping clean up.

Establishing Endowment Fund

Council Vice President Justin Ulland presented a proposed bylaw to establish an endowment fund: "The church may establish an endowment fund to support its mission and ministries." In advance of this meeting, per OSLC constitutional requirements, Justin sent a letter to the congregation explaining the proposed bylaw. The purpose of the fund is to help ensure that OSLC has the means to continue supporting our mission and ministries long into the future.

Discussion.

Ray Harbolt called to approved the motion as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

Election of New Council Members

Jane Wuest moved to accept the entire ballot as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

Closing Prayer

Pastor Christensen closed the meeting in prayer.



2014/2015 Annual Report to the Congregation CONGREGATIONAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING DEC. 31, 2014

Congregational Report for the Year Ending December 31, 2014

Total Baptized Membership – December 31, 2013:	759
Members Received during 2014:	
• By baptism: (15 yrs and under)	4
• By baptism: (adults 16 yrs and older)	0
• By affirmation of faith	12
• By transfer	6
• From other sources and statistical adjustments	0
Total members received	22
Members Removed during 2014:	
By death	3
By transfer	13
For other reasons and statistical adjustments	35
Total members removed:	51
Baptized Membership, end of 2014	730
Number of people confirmed in 2014	2
Total confirmed membership, end 2014	465
Average <i>Sunday</i> worship attendance 2013:	185
Average <i>Sunday</i> worship attendance 2014:	171

2014/2015 Annual Report to the Congregation INTERIM PASTOR REPORT



Sisters and Brothers:

It has been seven months since the transition time began for OSLC. A lot has happened.

A wonderful party celebrated the faithful service and loving care provided by Pastor Thomas. For 22 years he and Ann shared life with us at OSLC. He retired from public ministry.

Soon after, Pastor Fletcher received a call to Christ the King in Snohomish, Washington. Another goodbye had to be said to him and his family. It was bitter sweet for us.

Mourning the loss of two fine Pastors was front and center for many in the Parish. The usual questions surfaced. "Will we survive the loss? How will we survive the loss? Will our Parish life ever be the same again?"

The goodness of God has kept us alive and well during the time of loss. Word and Sacrament remain at the center of our life together. The Holy Communion from our Table is shared with homebound persons. Parish programs continue to be a blessing for many in the assembly and in the community. People have remained faithful as disciples of Jesus.

OSLC can take pride in the leadership of the Parish. The Parish Council continued the work that needed doing. I have seldom experienced such consistency from lay leaders who not only say good things, but follow through with the visions that are shared. You chose well when you elected these leaders.

Other volunteers maintained their commitments. The music program is strong. Ministry with children is done on a smaller scale, but it is being done. Outreach to the poor and vulnerable is a ministry that pleases God and delights God's children. Quilters quilt. Cooks cook. Study is done during the week. Groups gather regularly for their health and growth as disciples of Jesus.

The staff of the parish continues to do the high quality work that you have come to expect. Janet. Scott. Shari. Vern. Jan. Steve. Sabrina. Mau. Channy. My strong hope is that you appreciate the work of the staff. A "thank you" always feels good.

The Transition Team is a key part of this time. Those folks have done their work carefully and with great attention to discovering who we are and how we want to move into God's future. Their work will be followed by the work of a Call Committee which will be elected at the August, 2015, meeting of the Parish Council.

The Parish has survived the loss of beloved Pastors. It is my impression that OSLC has handled the losses with as much grace as possible for grieving people, and with a renewed understanding of who we are as God's people.

"Will our Parish life ever be the same again?"

The simple answer is "NO." No Pastor can be cloned. Parish life cannot "freeze dry" a time in its life no matter how good that time was. God is a God who is always doing new things which are built on prior experiences, but not imprisoned by them.

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2014/2015 Annual Report to the Congregation INTERIM PASTOR REPORT (Continued)

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Change has been difficult. I am a major change. The attitudes I have about Parish life have been shaped by 47 years of life as a public minister in this Church and by continuing attention to God and God's people. The peculiar squints I have about preaching and liturgy are sometimes jarring. I know who I am, and I know I am an adjustment for all of you.

It would be nice to promise there will be no more changes. It would be nice, but it would not be true.

The Parish is going to experience even more change in the next few years. Those who want to dig in their heels and resist that change will be frustrated. Those who welcome the changes will discover that the God who is always doing a new thing will prosper and defend the moves into the future.

The time will come when I will take leave of my responsibilities as Pastor for the Interim. (I have promised the Bishop that, though I am a member of the Parish, I will stay away from OSLC for at least one year following the installation of the new Pastor. That is a promise I made and will keep.) When my time with you is completed I will commend you to God's care and the care of the new Pastor you will have called. I know both will be faithful to you, so I will rest well.

As always I wish you God's peace,

R.L. Christensen

2014/2015 Annual Report to the Congregation INTERIM CHOIR DIRECTOR & WORSHIP COORDINATOR



When the people of OSLC gathered to celebrate *New Beginnings Sunday* in September, little did we know the extent to which “new beginnings” would continue to be a theme of our faith community’s work and worship. Amidst many changes, God’s people continued to gather in worship, God’s saving acts continued to be proclaimed, and God’s people continued to lift their song of praise.

Even as the faithful music and worship leadership of OSLC’s musicians continued, newness abounded. The Chancel Choir, directed by Scott Hafso, welcomed new accompanist Jan Hazelton. The Vocal Ensemble, directed by Dave Carlson and accompanied by Jeff Saathoff, welcomed a new name, “Jubilate,” meaning a joyous song or outburst. Pilgrim Journey, led by Mark Mummy, welcomed a new member. The Memorial Bells, directed by Alice Lewis, began a year of hiatus – a kind of “year of jubilee” – which included rest and renewal of vision for the future. OSLC’s instrumentalists, including parish organist Vern Lindquist, continued to support and enrich our worship services.

These services included a summer series on discipleship, the fall traditions of *A Celebration of New Beginnings* and All Saints’ Sunday – replete with the annual “names banner,” Advent and Christmas services (including an additional Christmas Eve service at 3:00pm), the multiple services of Lent, Holy Week and Easter (including mid-week Holden Evening Prayer services and additional noon-hour Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services), the culminating Music Festival Sunday and the return of lakeside campfire services in summer.

In addition, our musicians played integral roles in one retirement program and two farewell services, as they wished “traveling mercies” and Godspeed to Pastors Thomas and Fletcher and families.

Pastor Christensen and Scott Hafso met weekly and in retreat settings to engage in worship visioning and plan the many services of the year. A new banner – guided by a precursor committee to a future Liturgical Arts Committee, and created by OSLC member Elaine Stamm – ushered in the first of new worship visual arts for the sanctuary.

From a Good Friday Taizé service orchestra to Psalm cantors, Pilgrim Journey to Jubilate, summer soloists to Chancel Choir, worship and music were once again at the heart of our year together. We thank our servant-musicians for their work these many months.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Hafso, Interim Choir Director and Worship Coordinator



2014/2015 Annual Report to the Congregation TRANSITION TEAM REPORT

The Role of the Transition Team

During the interim between Pastor Larry's retirement and the eventual call to a new pastor, a Transition Team was appointed by Council to identify the vision, the needs, and the desires of our church family for the future of OSLC, information which will be used to call a pastor best suited to the kind of church we are and want to be. Team members asked to serve are:

Pastor Dick Christensen
Randy Baseler (Chair Person)
Marilyn Carlson (Secretary)
Lori Downey
Barbara (Carole) Extract
Mark Mummy
Vince Smith

Hard at work daily, and meeting weekly, the team's ultimate goal is to prepare a *Ministry Site Profile (MSP)* for the synod which provides detailed information about:

- ✦ the demographics of our church family and the demographics of the geographical area surrounding our church,
- ✦ our vision for OSLC now and in the future,
- ✦ our priorities regarding ministry(ies), and the qualities and abilities we seek in our future pastor, etc.

In order to complete the MSP, a great deal of information has been collected from records, histories and – most importantly – from the members of OSLC.

We have divided our tasks into 4 categories under each of which is a long list of tactics and tasks:

- ✦ Getting organized (defining the procedures, timelines, tactics and tasks),
- ✦ Keeping the congregation informed (developing and implementing a communication plan),
- ✦ Facilitating the involvement of all congregants, and
- ✦ Completing and submitting an effective MSP to the Bishop and OSLC call committee.

The Surveys

Congregants have been encouraged to express their views to the team via e-mail, in-person conversations, and through surveys. The first survey, completed in early May, helped identify how parishioners see OSLC as it is today and how they wish it to be in the future. The second survey, to be distributed in early June, will focus on the leadership qualities and ministry priorities of the new pastor. All data collected is analyzed, tabulated and translated into PowerPoint presentations for all to see.

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2014/2015 Annual Report to the Congregation TRANSITION TEAM REPORT



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After the MSP is completed and submitted to the Bishop's office, the Bishop will sort through the resumes of potential candidates who best fit the expressed needs and vision of OSLC parishioners and send them to the Call Committee. (Please note: members of the Transition Team will not be members of the Call Committee.)

The Call Committee will then review them, interview candidates and, ultimately, make a selection.

The Transition Team
transitionteam@oslccissaquah.org



2014/2015 Annual Report to the Congregation COUNCIL PRESIDENT REPORT

As I reflect back on this past fiscal year, my thoughts wander through many seasons of change. There are so many expressions coined around change: some things never change; change is good; change is bad; the only thing certain is change; it is time for a change!

When Pastor Larry announced his planned retirement, things were looking pretty good – we had mission and ministries in place, youth travelling around the world, reconnecting us with sister churches. We were becoming more involved in social and economic concerns within our community at large – we were ‘thinking globally’ and ‘acting locally’. Who needed change?

Apparently, we did. We were in no way complacent, but were suddenly launched into a state of change. During this past year, we have said good bye to not one but two pastors, bid farewell to several members, lost leadership roles, welcomed an interim pastor, changed the ways in which we worship, and all along faced the uncertainty of more change. God certainly was challenging us to examine ourselves, our church lives and our relationships with Him. All because of a change.

So, how have we fared this year? Have we met the challenges of change head on? Or have we simply kept our heads down, placing one foot in front of the other, just trying to ‘get by’? I can’t answer these questions for you, I can relay what I see and know, but the ultimate answers to the question of change, and the transitional movement we are all a part of now, must come from each one of us.

From my perspective, I see renewed commitment, new leaders stepping up to guide, make right, and ask new questions. I see new prayer groups being formed and growing in size and support. I have been gladdened to see new faces in worship, saddened to miss others, and been full of pride when we welcome new members to our fold.

This year’s council has been fully engaged, working together to create new ways to support our members and enhance worship at OSLC. You can read their reports and feel the enthusiasm each chair has for their ministries in this annual report. We are actively engaged in refining and defining our roles and responsibilities as laid out in our Constitution, ensuring that each new council member has a sense of continuity within their respective role and the job description it carries. When it is time to convene the next Nominating Committee, these clearly defined roles will be available to assist anyone interested in a council position with the full understanding of that role. I am proud of the work of our Council, just as I am of our staff. Together we are striving to help guide OSLC during this time of transition.

For this past year, we have welcomed 18 new members through transfer and/ or affirmation of faith. We have baptized four new souls. We have lost 51 members. Our active membership stands at 320, including children. Our average attendance has not changed much in the past year, overall, even though recent attendance trends are down. Financially, we are behind in giving. But we have no debt, and our assets are solid. We have cut spending to the bare necessities, while not compromising anywhere our ministries are needed.

Numbers and statistics are two edged swords, though. Some might read them and fear that we are changing for the worse, others might say that we are no worse off now than a year ago. Some may say change has done us good. I say look to your heart, and look around – change is present, and you can name it and be a part of it any way you want to. I encourage you all to embrace and support it.

Call it what you will, but I prefer to name change as Jesus’ way for us to grow in serving Him. I am looking forward to the next season of change.

Judi Case, Council President



Thank you to the staff of Our Savior Lutheran Church. They do the work of running the church, enhancing community, offering excellent leadership, growing disciples, providing quality worship services, providing inspiring music and spiritual support. Their dedication serves to enhance the experience of the congregation.

- Rev. Richard Christensen – Interim Lead Pastor
- Scott Hafso-Interim Director of Music & Worship Coordinator
- Janet Heck- Parish Administrator & Newsletter Editor
- Shari Lundberg – Office Assistant
- Vern Lindquist – Parish Organist
- Sabrina Wick- Nursery Attendant
- Steve Haugen, Accounting Matters – Accountant

Thank you to the congregation for continuing to support our staff and work to achieve these key goals:

- Revise and conduct performance reviews for OCLS staff
- Conduct a significant review of all staff salaries in order to be within Synod guidelines
- Continue health insurance for all full-time staff
- Assist in the formation of a call committee to provide visioning and thoughtful leadership as we look to the healthy future of this congregation

Thank you to Pastor Christensen as he leads the congregation as Interim Pastor in this time of transition. His wisdom and guidance will prove immeasurable as the congregation works toward a shared vision of the future of OSLC.

Yours in Christ,

Kristina Steffen, Council Representative for Administration/Personnel



2014/2015 Annual Report to the Congregation BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

This is my first year as a Committee Chair for Building and Grounds. It has been hectic!

We have had a couple of issues with the roof leaks that I believe are finally corrected.

At the end of March, we had our spring cleanup. There was a great group of people here and we managed to get a lot of work done. Many thanks to all of them for their help. It helps when the weather cooperates!

Our next cleanup will be in the fall. All are welcome! If you don't want to work outside, there are things that need to be done inside the building too.

Mark Cron was able finish up a couple of projects before the end of the 2014 calendar year. He spent a lot of time and energy in getting the driveway paved. We should all be thanking him during winter rains. We still have pot holes to fill at each cleanup, but having this pavement will make it a lot nicer walking up to the church building, keeping the inside cleaner. (If you are wondering why the entire driveway was not paved, doing more than is currently paved, would require a huge holding tank for the run off. The cost would be very significant.)

There are a few fairly significant projects to be addressed this year. Sections of the gutters need to be repaired or replaced. We need a new lawn tractor. The current tractor is held together by the proverbial bailing wire and duct tape. We also need a new shed. Since the old shed removed (rotting and with a few rats), some the items have been stored at the parsonage, some in the basement of the church and some at Mark's house. None of these are optimal locations.

I am sure there are more projects for the summer – more flowers to planted, more gravel to be spread, more timbers to be replaced. Maintenance never seems to be completed. If you are willing to help out some time, please contact me and I am sure we can match you up with a project that interests you.

We currently have several community groups that utilize our facilities. From several twelve step programs and support groups to Boy Scouts to Lutheran Counseling Network all benefit from our sharing our resources.

Many, many thanks to Mark and Tami Cron, and to Janet Heck for their help in getting me up to speed as the new chairperson. It is truly appreciated!

Jerry Thomas
Jerryth31@hotmail.com

2014/2015 Annual Report to the Congregation FINANCE COMMITTEE



Thank you for your faithful stewardship this past year. Your gifts of money, time, and talents have kept our congregation vibrant in this year of transition.

At last year's congregational meeting, we adopted an aggressive budget for the 2014/2015 fiscal year. For the current fiscal year through April 30th, while our contributions are up over 2% (\$8K) from the same time period for the 2013/2014 fiscal year, we are 9% (\$39K) below the budget we passed for this fiscal year. This is primarily due to the transition of our pastoral staff, our expenses are 15% (\$64K) below budget.

For the coming year, prayerfully consider increasing your gifts of money, time, and talents. Though we are in transition, our call for mission and ministry continues.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Ziegler, OSLC Church Council Treasurer

Oslc_treasurer@hotmail.com



2014/2015 Annual Report to the Congregation GLOBAL MISSIONS COMMITTEE

The mission of the Global Mission Committee (GMC) is to actively seek and establish strong, long-term mission partnerships in countries world-wide. Based on this mission, it is envisioned that Our Savior Lutheran Church (OSLC) will be widely known for strong, long-lasting support of world-wide missions. Consistent with this mission and vision, the GMC has been engaged in a variety of programs and activities during the past year.

OSLC's longest established global mission partnership has been with the World Mission Prayer League (WMPL) and the ministry of Henrik and Patty Christopherson. During their furlough in March, Henrik and Patty delivered a homily during two services and provided an adult forum between services.

During the Lent/Easter season, money was raised to support the Evangelical Lutheran Church's (ELCA) Global Mission Initiative, *God's Global Barnyard*. From the pulpit, in children's Sunday school classes and in children's sermons both children and adults were encouraged to generously raise \$500 in order to "have a cow." This resulted in \$626.89 being sent to ELCA Global Missions for the purchase of a cow (and more) for a needy third-world family. In addition to this specific fundraising effort, the ELCA Good Gift's Catalogue was made available with the encouragement to support other of *God's Global Barnyard* needs that include vaccinations, mosquito nets, water projects, farm animals (e.g., pigs, goats, sheep) and HIV/AIDS prevention.

Two adult forums were held during the year. The first forum focused on two Lutheran secondary educational programs in Tanzania, East Africa - Ngateu Secondary School in Arusha and the MaaSAE School in Monduli, both operated under the auspices of the North Central Diocese (NCD) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT). The focus of the second forum was the medical and social services for Palestinians provided by the Lutheran World Federation's (LWF) Augusta Victoria Hospital, Jerusalem, Israel.

During the past year, 186 "mission quilts" were crafted and distributed. The majority of the quilts, 158, were sent to Lutheran World Relief for world-wide distribution. Information about communities receiving these quilts will be posted on the Global Mission bulletin board when it becomes available. Quilts were also given to the Compass Center (8), the Issaquah Nursing and Rehabilitation Center (15) and to OSLC graduates (8).

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2014/2015 Annual Report to the Congregation GLOBAL MISSIONS COMMITTEE (Continued)



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During the past two years, with support from both OSLC and individuals, John Yu was able to complete his Youth and Family Ministry degree at Trinity Lutheran College. A letter was received from Trinity's President, John Reed, acknowledging this support and emphasizing the positive impact John had on his faculty mentors and fellow students alike.

With a commitment to keeping the congregation informed about global mission programs, opportunities and needs, a new bulletin board was established in Anderson Hall. Additionally, global mission news articles are published in the monthly *OSLC Focus* newsletter.

Submitted by John Stamm,
Council Representative for Global Missions Committee



2014/2015 Annual Report to the Congregation SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' Matthew 25:40

Members of our congregation serve those in need in our community in many ways. We cannot innumerate the individual acts of kindness, for many of them are done privately and without recognition. However, we are also engaged in many organized efforts on behalf of those who are members of our faith community, and those who are not, in need of encouragement and support.

Issaquah Meals Program: OSLC prepares and serves meal on the second Tuesday of each month for those in our community much in need of nourishment and companionship. This effort is coordinated by Catholic Community Service. At least eight volunteers are needed each month to prepare the meal and serve it at the Issaquah fire station's Community Hall. Attendance varies by season and ranges from 35 – 60 people, including homeless teens, families with small children, adults (both employed and unemployed) and many marginalized individuals who need a sense of community and a good meal to stretch their budgets. The cost of this program is approximately \$120 to \$150 per month or \$1,800 per year. A recent anonymous contribution has provided funding for this program that will last many years.

Thanksgiving Reverse Offering: Thanks to your generosity, 36 individuals in 15 households were provided with the makings of Thanksgiving dinner, plus essential cleaning, paper and personal care supplies. Surplus good and supplies were donated to the Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank.

Christmas Giving Tree: Thanks to all the members of OSLC who generously contributed just over \$2,000 in gift cards, gifts, checks and cash benefitting individuals and families in our own congregation, low income children in the community through the Holiday Gift Barn and the children of Vine Maple transitional housing program.

Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank: IFCB served over 400 families each week. Many people in our congregation provide food and clothing through our collection barrels, or volunteer their personal time at the Food Bank. **Mayor's Month of Caring:** OSLC members helped collect food for the Mayor's Month of Care outside grocery stores in September. Church volunteers distributed flyers with needed items to shoppers as they enter the store and collect their donations as they exit. IFCB coordinated the community-wide **Tools for Schools** back pack drive. OSLC members contributed 12 backpacks and about \$450 toward this effort.

Lunch Before the Break: 116 boxes of food were donated, each with enough food to feed a child for breakfast and lunch for the Spring Break week when children would not have access to the school hot lunch program. 32 families were served from the Issaquah Valley and Clark Elementary schools as part of a pilot program. Thanks to all who participated from our congregation. 28 of the boxes came from OSLC, and we have excess money to contribute to the Food Bank in support of the summer lunch program. In partnership with the

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2014/2015 Annual Report to the Congregation SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE (Continued)



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Issaquah Food Bank and other churches and community organizations, the program will be expanded throughout the Issaquah School District to Christmas break, second winter break and spring break next year.

Breakfast Bar Program: OSLC has adopted Briarwood Elementary, an Issaquah school, to provide **breakfast bars** to be given to students who come to school hungry. This effort is coordinated by the **Issaquah Schools Foundation**. The cost per year is approximately \$300.

Eastside Baby Corner: Members of OSLC contribute diapers, formula, clothing, bedding and toys individually and through the EBC barrels located in the back hall of the church.

Men's Clothing Drive: OSLC participated in the men's winter clothing drive to benefit the Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank and Union Gospel Mission. Many barrels of clothing were donated by our members.

Community Coordinated Response to Hunger and Homelessness: The OSLC Social Concerns team is represented at the Nourishing Network, a multi-organizational group that meets monthly to bring people and projects together. While the **Nourishing Network** was started to address food insecurity in our community, the group has also turned its attention to **homelessness**. A Social Concerns representative has attend the **Issaquah-Sammamish Interfaith Council on Homeless**, two conferences at **Seattle University** which highlighted **Best and Promising Practices in Faith Based Solutions to End Homelessness and the Tools for Servants meeting sponsored by St. Luke's Lutheran and Sammamish Hills Lutheran**. Three meetings have been held at OSLC with members interested in further study of efforts such as Safe Parking for families living in their cars. The OSLC Church Council has recommended to the Congregation the implementation of a six month pilot program to provide six parking spaces for families who must live in their cars, during the hours of 9:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m. Please see the May Focus for more information.

OSLC supported **Compassion House** by participating in their very fun and fruitful pie auction on November 8th. The OSLC's Pie Ladies contributed \$2,570 to the auction through our efforts. **Compassion House** offers families a home and social services as they rebuild lives and recover from major life challenges. Donations have also been made from Social Concerns funds to furnish household items and other necessities.

Members of the Social Concerns Committee include: Lucy Acker, Judy and Carl Boruck, Robert and Karen Brezing, Chuck and Yumio Doty, Libbie FitzGerald, Les and Kate Gagnon, Margot Inman, Kristin McLeod, Sandy Nygaard, Georgeanne Park, Don and Lorna Robertson, Jan Setterlund, Ron and Tommy Sordahl, Dianne Tanner, Alicia Veeveart, Wendy Winslow, Morgan Wood, Kathy Ziegler.

In Christ's Peace, Connie Fletcher, Social Concerns Chair



2014/2015 Annual Report to the Congregation STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

~OSLC's Mission Statement:

Living God's love in Jesus Christ through word and sacraments, worship and prayer, learning and fellowship we grow disciples for service and outreach.

~Stewardship Committee's Mission Statement

Growing consistent givers of time, talent and treasure.

As many of you have recently reported the Stewardship Committee was not very visible in fiscal year 2014-2015. But we have been here, behind the scenes, encouraging our members to give of time and resources to many good and worthy causes. In 2014 congregants of Our Savior Lutheran Church gave generously of their finances to many special interests and activities. Let's name a few: to Global Missions in support of our China connection; to Youth in support of scholarships for our Peruvian sisters and Give a Cow Campaign; to Social Concerns through school supplies for local school children and the ever popular meals program; and to our departing pastors in appreciation of their ministries amongst us.

In January of 2015 we began a new program: *Stewardship Year Round*. We are partnering with the ministry teams to give a visibility to what it means to be a good steward. So far, we have worked with the Worship committee, the Global Missions committee and the Social Concerns committee. Each committee has been able to produce a flyer for distribution which shows where our dollars go and where we are actively involved. We hope this encourages you to participate: give more generously and become hands-on! Watch for more of this communication in 2015.

We believe that electronic giving is the way of the future and enables us as participants to be more consistent in our giving. The number of electronic givers at OSLC continues to grow and we will continue to encourage you to "sign-up". It is easy. Just visit our webpage or talk to our Financial Secretary, Mary Ann Hult, who will help you.

In the future, as in the past, we will encourage you to grow your giving. Our Father's expectation is 10% - so that is our goal. But, what if we can only grow our financial giving by 1% or 2%? It is a step in the right direction and increases our faith and trust in God to provide for us as He promises He will - trust Him.

Financial contributions to the General Fund (church operations) have been down in recent months. We recognize that this may be due to the transition and the "wait and see" mindset. Please, don't let that hold you back from giving. God is a giver. As His people, we need to give, too. The needs of the world have not stopped, nor has our congregation stopped in reaching out in response to those needs. We continue to function as a church and we continue to serve our neighbors here at home and around the globe. If you can't give money, give your hands. If you can't give your hands, give your prayers. The prayers of the faithful are a mighty power!

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2014/2014 Annual Report to the Congregation STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE (Continued)



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It is a privilege to be a member of this 2014-2015 church council and to serve you – the congregation of Our Savior Lutheran Church. I would like to thank all the many members who have participated and supported the Stewardship Committee this past year and look forward to the challenges the new fiscal year brings. Please contact me with any concerns or questions or if you would like to join in the conversations with these wonderful folks: Ray Harbolt, Randy Baseler, Connie Fletcher, Mary Ann Hult, Jerry Thomas, John Stamm, Robin Timmerman, Thomas Gardner, Brook Buchanan

“Stewardship is a matter of the heart. Stewardship practices are a response to the boundless love God first showed me....As a faithful steward and child of God, I understand that (the) decisions I make, in all aspects of my life, reveal my priorities. It is a privilege to share time, talents and finances to care for God’s earth and to serve my neighbor.”...I am blessed to be a blessing.” (Quote from “Stewards of God’s Love”, a year-round guide to stewardship.)

Submitted by Wendy Winslow
Council Representative for Stewardship



2014/2015 Annual Report to the Congregation WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Dave Carlson is currently chair of the Worship Committee, filling in the remainder of Leslie Waltzer's term. His main focus in this time of transition is to:

- Support the dedicated volunteer groups that make worship at OSLC happen each week.
- Coordinate these volunteer groups to ensure clear communication and collaboration to maintain vibrant and meaningful worship services at OSLC.
- Begin to define the unique OSLC vision for worship. That is, what are the strengths, weaknesses, and characteristics of worship that we value at OSLC.

If you would like to get involved in serving with any of the groups that support our worship services, there are a number of opportunities:

- **Greeters:** Mary Fricke coordinates this group, who greet us as we arrive for worship each week, and make us feel welcome.
- **Ushers:** Bill Suttmeier coordinates this group. This dedicated team ushers us into the sanctuary with a service folder and a smile, collects the weekly offering, directs us as we join in communion, and generally keeps the peace. There is a definite need for more volunteers for ushering.
- **Sound Engineers:** These people man the sound board each week. Currently, Marilyn Larson is coordinating this group, but we are in need of a new coordinator. If you would like to help out as coordinator, please contact Dave Carlson or Marilyn Larson. In addition, we need some more sound engineers.
- **Liturgical Arts/Banners:** This committee was created this year and is led by Leslie Waltzer. We will be seeing the fruit of their labors as time goes on.
- **Altar Guild:** This group is currently led by Judi Case. It is truly a group that works diligently behind the scenes. They set up for communion each week, and clean up after the services, take care of the paraments and banners, and many other tasks too numerous to mention. If you would like to get involved, contact Judi.
- **Communion Assistants:** Shari Lundberg coordinates the Communion Assistants. This team assists the pastor in distributing communion to the communicants each week. Training is provided, and volunteers are needed, so if you would like to get involved, contact Dave Carlson or Shari Lundberg, or the church office.
- **Lectors:** Shari Lundberg coordinates the Lectors as well. This team assists in the service by reading scripture, leading the Creed and Prayers of the People, and in the dismissal from worship. Contact Shari if you are interested in serving this way.

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- **Music:** Scott Hafso is our Interim Music Director and Worship Coordinator, and there are a number of opportunities to participate in the music life of OSLC. Chief among them is the Chancel Choir, which rehearses in the sanctuary every Wednesday evening at 7PM, except during the summer. Throughout the year, we also encourage special/occasional musical offerings by individuals or small groups. If you are interested in participating in the OSLC music program, please contact Scott. New choir members are always welcome.
- **Acolytes:** Robin Timmerman is currently coordinating the schedule for Sunday morning acolytes. Acolytes light the altar candles and assist with the offering collection. If you have a youth that might be interested in serving as an acolyte, contact Pr. Christensen.

Respectfully,
Dave Carlson



2014/2015 Annual Report to the Congregation YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT

Mission Statement:

OSLC youth ministry is about building relationships: between youth, between youth and adults, and between adults with a passion for youth.

OSLC youth ministry is everywhere: it is not a set of programs limited to one area of ministry but something that happens throughout the diverse life of the faith community and among all generations.

OSLC youth ministry is family—based: the key to developing youth participation is in engaging whole families; this means building community and friendship among generations of young families and inviting them deeper into relationship with one another and the church.

OSLC youth ministry is community—oriented: our programs and ministries need to focus not solely on our own youth but on youth throughout the wider community.

The youth of OSLC headed to Peru in July 2014 and came back excited to share their experiences with the congregation. The shareholders event was a packed Anderson Hall and included Skype with our Peruvian family in Chiclayo. Other youth events this year included Whirlyball and hosting the church BBQ and softball game in June 2014.

We were blessed with Pastor Fletcher's continued commitment with the leadership role for the Youth Ministry Committee and the Youth Committee Chair Glenna Usselman. The Youth Ministry Committee has been busy planning and organizing the upcoming 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit trip in July where we have three youth from OSLC and one youth from Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church who are committed to spread God's word, love and service. We have held several fundraisers to help cover the costs of this event including a chili cook-off that was very successful and had a lot of positive feedback.

The Youth Committee is proud to announce the up and running Peru Scholarship fund. This committee consists of Glenna Usselman, Mark Mummy and working with Henrik Christopherson to get set up in Peru and Hans Verkerk of Chiclayo who is our local administrator for the scholarship program in Peru. Hans provided an email update on the three young ladies who are receiving the scholarships at this time:

The money (for April) arrived at the bank, no problems. Many thanks on behalf of the young ladies receiving the scholarships. Priscilla has begun to study gastronomy. She wants to be a chef. I talked to her and she likes it. Susi began her semester of accounting, and she has begun an internship related to her course of study. Miriam is also studying this semester – she is studying business psychology. She is very motivated. Thanks to you, and to OSLC, for these scholarships. May the Lord bless you all! Your brother in Christ, Hans

The Youth and Children's Ministry Committee will continue to offer scholarships for children and youth to attend a week at Camp Lutherwood this summer. We are again offering to fund half of the tuition costs for youth in our congregation and hope to be able to continue this fund for years to come.

Please continue to pray for our youth, ministry team, leaders and volunteers that we may continue to grow in Christ's love and grace through our mission statement.

In His Name,
Glenna Usselman, Youth Committee Chair

