

## ANNUAL REPORT 2014

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
West Salem, Wisconsin  
[www.oursaviorswestsalem.org](http://www.oursaviorswestsalem.org)

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

**To reach toward God and to each other  
for the sake of the world**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2015 – 11:45 a.m.

### **THE ORDER OF BUSINESS**

President Mike Alumbaugh, presiding

#### **DEVOTIONS**

**MINUTES** of last Annual Meeting, January 26, 2014 and Special Congregational Meeting, October 26, 2014 (pages 2-4)

#### **REPORTS**

1. Pastors (pages 6-12, 13-15)
2. Presidents and Church Council (pages 16-17)
3. Financial (pages 44-48)
4. Committees, Ministries and Other Reports (pages 10-11, 19-32, 34-43)

#### **ELECTION** by ballot

Three to the Church Council for three-year terms  
One to the Church Council for a two-year term  
One to the Endowment Fund Committee for a three-year term  
Two delegates to the Bethany Lutheran Home Corporation  
Two delegates to Sugar Creek Bible Camp Corporation  
Background information on Nominees (pages 18-19)

#### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Six to be elected including two of whom are retiring Council members (page 5)

**APPROVAL** of the 2015 Budget – recommended by the Church Council (pages 46-48)

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Resolutions (page 49)

#### **CLOSING PRAYERS**

## ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

January 26, 2014

President Corey Sjoquist called the meeting to order at 11:40 a.m.

Pastor Jean led devotions printed on the Annual Report Cover.

MMSC (motion made, seconded, carried) to accept the Annual Meeting minutes from January 27, 2013.

### Reports:

President Corey Sjoquist thanked the pastors, staff and Council for their work during this past year. He also thanked Pam Gresens for her six years of serving on the Council.

Discussion was held about the Treasurer's Report.

Corey explained how the distribution of the 2013 budget surplus would be handled.

• Unrestricted gifts over actual budgeted expenses	\$20,451.70
• Capital Improvement for Building Needs Fund	\$ 9,500.00
Designated for Organ Repair	\$ 2,500.00
Designated for Roof Repair	\$ 5,000.00
• Refund to Day Care for overpayment	\$ 1,500.00
• 2% Additional to Linda, Kathy, Eric, Jill, Lynnette	\$ 500.00
• Additional for Rob Wiese (Kwik-Trip Card)	\$ 250.00
• Gift to Bottem girls for worship leadership 2 x \$25	\$ 50.00
• Balance to New Facilities/Programs Fund	\$ 8,651.70

MMSC to accept the following reports: Pastors, Presidents and Church Council, Treasurer's, Committees, and Other Reports.

### Election:

Four people were nominated prior to the Annual Meeting for three-year terms to the Church Council. The nominees were Mike Alumbaugh, Rich Clements, Vernetta Moe and Ken Spratz.

Two people were nominated prior to the Annual Meeting to be delegates to Bethany Home Corporation. The nominees were Larry Blunck and Jim Michelson.

Two people were nominated prior to the Annual Meeting to be delegates to Sugar Creek Bible Camp. The nominees were Marty Frank and Jeff Haldeman.

Two people were nominated to the Endowment Fund Committee for three-year terms. The nominees were Jeanette Carlson and Lee Fernstaedt.

Six people were nominated to the Nominating Committee. The nominees were Wayne Burkhardt, Vicky Johnson, Beth Quamme, Wayne Affeldt, Pam Gresens and Corey Sjoquist.

MMSC to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot.

**Approval of the 2014 Budget**

MMSC to approve the 2014 budget.

**Unfinished Business:**

No Unfinished Business.

**New Business:**

Corey Sjoquist was thanked for his leadership as Council President. Discussion was held about possibly having to replace the roof in the Gathering Area.

MMSC to adjourn the meeting at 12:17 p.m.

Pastor Jon closed with prayer.

40 people attended the meeting.

Submitted by,  
Kay Niemeier, Recording Secretary

**SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

October 26, 2014

President Mike Alumbaugh called the meeting to order at 11:40 a.m.

42 people were present.

There were two items of business.

A. Proposed Constitution Amendments and Bylaw Changes

The Church Council made a motion to make the changes to the Constitution Amendments and Bylaws as written in Exhibit A., motion was seconded. There was discussion. A written ballot was handed out. The motion passed unanimously—42 yes votes.

B. Mission Endowment Fund Revisions

The Mission Endowment Fund Committee and the Congregation Council made a motion to adopt the changes (1) to the enabling resolution, (2) Article I. The

Endowment Fund Committee, and (3) Article III. Committee Powers as presented in Exhibit B. The motion was seconded and discussion followed.

A motion was made and seconded to amend Category 3 under Article III. Committee Powers to read: "Minimum of 20 percent for missions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America AND OTHER MINISTRY ORGANIZATIONS AS DEEMED APPROPRIATE in this continent and worldwide..." Motion to amend Category 3 was carried, with 2 opposed.

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the changes (1) to the enabling resolution, (2) Article I. The Endowment Fund Committee, and (3) Article III. Committee Powers as amended. Discussion followed. This motion requires a two-thirds favorable vote to pass. The motion failed. Yes - 27, No - 14.

A motion was made to adopt only the changes (1) to the enabling resolution and (2) Article I. The Endowment Fund Committee as presented in Exhibit B. Motion was seconded, and following discussion, motion carried.

Discussion followed on how to adopt changes in Article III without adding a new Category 1.

A motion was made to amend Item 4 under Article III. Committee Powers as originally adopted in the Enabling Resolution of 2002 as follows

Category 2: "Minimum of 20 percent for missions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America AND OTHER MINISTRY ORGANIZATIONS AS DEEMED APPROPRIATE in this continent and worldwide ..."

Motion was seconded. Discussion followed. This motion requires a two-thirds favorable vote to pass. The motion failed. Yes-11, No-18.

It was suggested the Endowment Fund Committee prepare their list of recommended 2015 distributions from the Fund, but not distribute the money until after the Annual Meeting.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:47 p.m.

## **2014 CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS**

NAME	TERM EXPIRES	TERM
*Mike Alumbaugh	2017	Second
Marjorie Anderson	2016	First
*Dottie Baumgartner	2015	First
Char Buelow	2016	First
Rich Clements	2017	First
*Mark Hunter	2015	First
*Ruby Kerkman	2015	First
Vernetta Moe	2017	Second
Jim Quamme	2016	First
Ken Spruetz	2017	First
Sandi Stavlo	2016	First

(\*Council members who are finishing their service)

## **OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL AND THE CONGREGATION**

President: Mike Alumbaugh  
Vice-president: Char Buelow  
Secretary: Sandi Stavlo

## **CHURCH STAFF**

Senior Pastor: Jonathan Schmidt  
Associate Pastor: Jean Schmidt  
Parish/Financial Secretary: Kay Niemeier  
Treasurer: Jill Iliff  
Director of Youth & Family: Dana Roemhild  
Organists: Linda Berg and Kathy Brisson  
Senior Choir Director: Eric Sorenson  
Accompanist: Linda Berg  
Money Counter: Karen DeSchepper  
Custodian: Dave Nelson

## SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT

Early in 2014 at the La Crosse Area Synod spring theological conference, I gathered with other pastors from our synod, along with Bishop Arends, to consider the changes in our society, and how they impact our lives as congregations and the ministries we carry out. The reality is that throughout the church, in Lutheran, Presbyterian, Methodist, Roman Catholic, even Baptist and Assembly of God congregations, worship attendance is down, and the church is no longer the center of our communities, or even the center of our lives.

"It's not your fault," the presenter said, rather emphatically! "These are changes that have been coming on for over a generation, and only now becoming so obvious."

To some extent, the drop in worship attendance hasn't really been an issue for Our Savior's. Our church is regularly full, there are new members in our midst, and we have a vibrant, active ministry. On the other hand, West Salem is a growing community. We should be full, we should be vibrant, and we should be active!

Still, we can't isolate ourselves from the bigger picture, and none of this is all that surprising, certainly not to myself or Pastor Jean. We have been working on this for over ten years. We know what the problem is and we can identify it. What we don't know is what the answer is.

Perhaps, however, that misses the point. Perhaps there is no answer, or at least no easy solution to "fix" everything and go back to "the good old days." Instead, it may be that we are in a new era in which church means something different, and our ministries need to reflect new realities.

That doesn't mean that what we are doing is wrong, or misguided – it simply means that maybe the church will need to find new possibilities in the midst of a changing world. We've been doing some of that. Our new web site is a big step forward to connect in new ways, and soon we hope to have our worship services available as a video, available online. A new "moms" group has formed, and we are always asking, "What will really connect with busy, active folk?"

Still, it seems there is something else. And maybe that something else has something to do with what we have been called to do since the very beginning.

And what is that? Check the words – Matthew 28:19-20 – Jesus' parting words to his disciples:

*"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

There it is...*make **disciples** of all nations!*

What does that mean for us? The changes in our society moving church beyond the center of our lives means that we can't just open the doors and expect folk to flock in. Those days are gone. Instead, we need to offer something of depth, something of value to people looking for meaning in their lives. The gospel proclaims that God is active in our lives and that in Jesus God acts to restore our brokenness. But the gospel also proclaims that God uses us to bring life to others. You know the phrase – God's work, our hands. And that is what disciples are about.

In some ways, none of this is new. It was disciples of Jesus who, over 150 years ago, gathered together to begin this congregation. It was disciples who, almost 100 years ago, built the building in which we worship. It was disciples who, in different ways, over the many years, have sought to faithfully proclaim the good news of Jesus in West Salem, Bangor, and beyond. Discipleship has been a part of our lives for the life of this congregation.

What's different now is that we recognize that discipleship really is what we have to offer that distinguishes us from other organizations. We offer the opportunity to be a part of something really big – the opportunity to be a part of what God is up to!

So how is that happening?

- The **summer lunch program** went over BIG, meeting a need, engaging members of the community, and feeding 80+ kids, many of them really needing the meal!
- Our **confirmation program** focusses on making disciples, as our kids learn about the Biblical story in 6<sup>th</sup> grade; expand their understanding of God's work while joining together in adult led small groups in 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and practice discipleship in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Around 120 kids are involved – a big ministry!
- No, the **Care and Share Food Pantry** really isn't ours, but we host it and we support it. A GREAT ministry!
- New (and already existing) **senior ministries**, from OWLS to worship at the nursing homes, to Bible study at Salem Terrace and recognition of seniors, and many other ways we reach out to those who have so much to share.
- **Sunday School and VBS** reach over 100 kids, sharing with them the love of Jesus, and God's call to faithful living.
- Learning takes place for adults too! In **Circle gatherings and Bible studies**, disciples learn discipleship, share in the grace of Jesus, and gathering together in fellowship.
- **Music ministries galore** give the opportunity for young and old, in a variety of ways, to use their musical gifts to praise God and share the message of God's love through Jesus.
- The **sewing group and the prayer shawl makers** create gifts of life to bring warmth and to wrap a child of God in fabric that reminds them of the love of God.
- A variety of **youth ministries**, including the after school program, youth gatherings, and mission trips nurture faith and discipleship in kids from the congregation, but also kids from the community.

- We participate in ministry through **partnerships** – with the La Crosse Area Synod, Sugar Creek, LSS, the ELCA, and a variety of ministries in our community and across the globe. Some ministries, like Water282, are very specific, providing for a well in a specific village. Others (like with the world hunger appeal) meet a wide variety of needs. Always, however, we make a difference in lives of folk we will most likely never meet, but who are known – and precious – to Jesus!
- In our special relationship with **Lutheran Campus Ministry at La Crosse**, we are major financial supporters, along with a number of other congregations. Our support has also included meals and conversation with students.
- Our **seminary student**, Bonnie Klos, will soon be in the call process and we will send forth one of our own to do new ministry in a new setting.
- Each of us, **in our daily lives**, have opportunities to be disciples. Not just in the church building, or through church ministries – wherever WE are, there is church!
- And...**lots of other ways** that are too numerous to mention!

These ministries touch lives – that’s what disciples do. But there is a surprise twist – as disciples reach out and touch others, they discover that they too receive, that they too are blessed as they seek to bless others. Don’t believe me? Ask a confirmation guide...a choir member...a food pantry volunteer...a Sunday School teacher...a generous giver. They’ll tell you!

But our discipleship isn’t static, just sitting still. As a community of faith we have new challenges and opportunities for our discipleship as the days ahead unfold – and with them, new gifts with which to live out our calling from God!

In March, we will hold a **“congregational conversation,”** the next step in seeking to discern where God is calling us to go, and how God is calling us to live out our discipleship. Grounded in prayer and Bible study, we will take some time to listen, to share, and to discern what part of God’s work we are called to embrace, and then, how we will use our assets to make that ministry happen. Part of this gathering will be to consider how our properties might fit into the picture. *Together, as a community* we will work to discern and understand God’s calling to us.

In the meantime, Pastor Jean and I continue to be excited about our work together with you here at Our Savior’s. God is at work in our midst, and we are privileged to do “God’s work” with “our hands,” in this place!

As we relish our calling to Our Savior’s, we give thanks for the partnership we have with you. Each of you, shares a part of our journey, and we treasure your presence with us.

We are especially grateful for the staff and leadership of this congregation.

- Kay, Dana and Dave, our “fuller time” staff...
- Linda, Eric, Kathy – our music staff, and Ilene, Mike, Shannon, Ann, the SOS Band, and *all* of our volunteer musicians...
- Jill and Karen in finances (and Karen’s counting team...)



- Mike Alumbaugh, a dedicated Congregation Council, and the members of committees and ministry teams, and all who are a part of leading and guiding our ministry.

And then...my thanks to Pastor Jean – as spouse and colleague she excels and supports me in so many ways – and my thanks to Rebecca who has been patient with me as parent and pastor.

But most of all, my thanks and praise to a wondrous and generous God who continually renews and restores us in the grace of Jesus and the swirling presence of the Holy Spirit!

Pastor Jon

### **ASSOCIATE PASTOR'S REPORT**

We were visiting with friends recently and they asked how things were going in West Salem. When I referenced something about it being two years that we have been here, they couldn't believe it had been that long. For us it seems like only yesterday that we first arrived in the midst of the year's worst snowstorm. Back then we were overwhelmed with all of the people who gather in this place to worship and share their talents and gifts. We still have our days when we fail to recognize someone or the name that goes with the face escapes us, but we are getting there. Of course that also means if you're not here, we know it – and you are missed! It has been exciting to welcome new families and new faces to our faith community throughout the year as well. We are a diverse community that comes together with Christ at our center.

We have been blessed by another year of working together with all of you to do the mission and ministry God has placed before us. There is always something going on, many times multiple things at once, and it feels like we are bursting at the seams. And, that is a good feeling. There is life and energy and enthusiasm bursting forth from this place. Good work happens within the walls of Our Savior's, but it also is carried out into the community, into the world that exists outside of 359 N Leonard Street.

I am filled each week as we worship – singing praises to God, hearing His Word, and partaking in the sacraments. I was talking with someone recently who made the comment their week is not complete without coming to worship; something is missing when they miss church. Amen! We worship well – we are not afraid to try new things and the variety of worship styles keeps us fresh and energized, whether we are led by the organ, piano, or SOS Band. How neat it is to be part of a congregation that embraces such a wide variety of worship styles. We have gifted musicians who are always seeking to be creative and who are willing to teach us new things and to share their talents in new ways. We have talented young people who come together to share their time and gifts in the context of worship as well. Our choirs are called to lead the congregation in song, and they do that well, not only as they share an anthem, but as

they sit in the pews among us lending their voices to our hymns. We have appreciated those who have embraced the new way of doing prayers during worship – thank you to those who have no problem lifting up prayer petitions, those who have stepped outside of their comfort zone to do so, and to the children who eagerly share their voices too. They truly are the “prayers of the people!” As we look to the coming year, we are hopeful our worship services will be available on our website – for when you can’t be at church. But don’t get too comfy at home, for there is much to be gained from being together in this place sharing in community, building relationships, and carrying them out into the “mission field.”

Our daughter, Rebecca, has begun to explore new opportunities at school and is enjoying extra-curricular activities, which has exposed us (as parents) to new experiences. What is fun about that is connecting with all of the “church families” doing the same thing. We see you out in the community – cheering on the team, coaching the team, watching parades, enjoying the various musical programs and productions, supporting fundraisers – sharing your gifts of time and talents with children and with others – you bring the face of Christ to those whom you interact with.

One of my passions is worship and so it has been a privilege to be a part of the **Worship Committee** as they plan what happens each week. This is a faithful group who seeks to create a meaningful worship experience for all of us. It has also been fun working with the **Worship Exploration Task Force**. This is a new group charged with exploring various aspects of our worship and worship practices. Those on the team bring their varied life experiences and love of worship. The group has been very thoughtful, intentional, and Christ-centered as they pondered the different topics. We studied, shared, dreamed, prayed, and suggested. A side product of this group is that we are fulfilling a request to all congregations and synods in the ELCA from Presiding Bishop Eaton to review the 18 year old document “The Use of the Means of Grace: A Statement on the Practice of Word and Sacrament” and we will submit our reflections when our review is complete.

We are blessed with the gift of children at Our Savior’s. They are filled with awe and enthusiasm. They are filled with energy and eager to learn about Jesus. And, they love to sing! How awesome is it when they invite their friends to come and join us too.

The **Christian Education Committee** is a small, dedicated group (that would eagerly welcome others to join with us!) with an important task before us to ensure that our young people have an opportunity to experience the love of Jesus as they learn about His life and feel His presence in their lives. Sunday School and Vacation Bible School are the primary responsibilities of this group.

**Sunday School** – We are thankful for a dedicated group of teachers, helpers, and music leaders who share their witness every week. In collaboration with the Worship and Social Committees, this year we tried something new – combining Gospel on the Green and Sunday School Rally Day all at the Lion’s Shelter across the street. Our communion worship service was followed by a potluck lunch, and games and activities for kids of all ages, including two bounce houses! This met

with rave reviews! The Sunday School curriculum is lectionary based, which means it follows the lessons that are heard in worship that weekend. This allows those attending 8 a.m. worship to get a jump-start on what they will be talking about in class, and those attending 10:30 a.m. worship usually have all of the answers during the children's message! It also provides an opportunity for parents and students to take the message home with them and continue the conversation. We all look forward to having the children sing in worship. We tried something new this year, having the children sing at whichever service they attend on Sunday mornings. This spreads out the number of children and also allows more members of the congregation to hear them sing. Close to 100 students have participated in Sunday School at one time or another during this year. We kept track of who was here and those classes with "near perfect" attendance were treated at the end of December and the end of May. Four students had perfect attendance and another three only missed one week! How awesome was that! A generous "friend" of our Sunday School gifted these students with Barnes & Noble gift cards to enable them to continue their love of learning – thank you "friend"! The offering for Sunday School this past year was the ELCA Malaria Net Campaign. We set a goal of \$1000 for the year (which is 100 nets), and we were excited to surpass that by raising over \$1200 with the help of congregation members who joined the children with their gifts.

**Vacation Bible School** – SonTreasure Island was the theme of this year's VBS that was held in mid-August. We kicked-off our publicity with a float in the June Dairy Days Parade. We especially thank the Clements family for all of the hours they spent getting the float ready and ensuring it was a work of art! Lots of young ones had fun walking the parade route handing out candy and the information sheet sharing the details of VBS. Once again, VBS was held in the evening and we tried to create an intergenerational event. New this year was a kid friendly supper before VBS started that fed about 50 each night, childcare for the little ones, and Bible study for the adults. Throughout our time together, 34 students from Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade gathered to hear the Bible stories, sing, play games, and make crafts; 4 children were in the "nursery," while 8 adults gathered in the sanctuary for Bible study. 13 adults and 23 young adults shared their time teaching and shepherding, preparing snacks, leading activities, and participating in the dramas.

Connecting with those who can't be with us has been a rewarding experience and also a challenge. When you are hospitalized, we believe it is important to visit with you, to let you know you are not alone, and for you to know that we are all praying for you. Up until now, Gundersen has been willing to share the names of our members who are hospitalized, and we try to get to see you at least once during your stay. In the New Year (2015) it is becoming more difficult to get past the "privacy police" to find you, and we don't know how much longer the Spiritual Care Department will be able to share names with us, so we are asking that you help us by letting us know if you or a loved one is in the hospital. If you are at Mayo/Franciscan Skemp, they will not share information with us ahead of time, so we rely on family to help us.

Visiting with our homebound members has been very meaningful for us. We have enjoyed getting to know these precious saints and learning their stories. Making sure our shut-ins are visited regularly has been a ministry carried out not only by the pastors, but also by a group of faithful folk who bring them home communion and the "gift of gab." In addition, cards are sent to those who have been prayed for during worship that week.

We talk about being blessed by young families and children here at Our Savior's, but we are also equally blessed by an abundance of senior (elder) members. These saints have served this church well over the years in so many different capacities, and they continue to do so in varied ways even in their golden years. We intentionally look for ways to keep them active and serving Christ in meaningful ways. We also continue to look for ways to honor them and to serve their needs. When we think about Senior Ministry, we lift up ministries *to, by, and for* our seniors.

As we bade farewell to Lynnette Wick and welcomed Karen DeSchepper into the role of "lead money counter" it was a good time to review our counting practices and reporting, as well as looking at the whole picture of our accounting practices. A new team of six counters was assembled to assist Karen with the actual weekly counting of our offering. Another team was formed to review the whole process of how monies are received and accounted for, and how to make better use of our computer program capabilities. The transitioning of the finances is a work in progress, but hopefully will be running smoothly early in the New Year.

As you read about the various ministries that we are engaged in here at Our Savior's, I would invite you to prayerfully consider becoming a part of one (or more). We have members, old and new, who come with experience, energy, and new ideas or new ways of doing old things. Don't be shy ... why not share your God-given gifts and talents! Pastor Jon and I can still play the "we're new" card and we may not know what motivates you, what you have a passion for, what ministry you're just dying to be a part of ... so please enlighten us, dig in, and follow your heart.

I thank God every day for the gifts we find here at Our Savior's, in West Salem, and in our home. ***Thank you to all of you*** for your work in the name of Jesus Christ – your financial support, your encouragement, your time and talents, your prayers, your presence – giving of yourselves to carry out the mission and ministry to which God calls us. ***Thank you to our staff*** who works tirelessly as partners in the work of the Gospel, sometimes behind the scenes and sometimes in front where all can see. Thank you for all that you do for this community of faith and for us as your pastors – you are treasured. ***Thank you to my family***, to Jon and Rebecca, for giving me the freedom to do the work I love, for grounding me, nurturing and supporting me, for loving me unconditionally – you are God's greatest blessing to me.

Praying for you and with you,  
*Pastor Jean*

## STATISTICAL REPORT

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Baptized Members	1606	1652	1552	1579	1647	1240
Confirmed Members	1199	1126	1052	985	1034	918
Confirmed Members Who Communed and Contributed	616	567	545	556	532	491
Households	505	499	477	496	522	477
Confirmed Members Who Communed	727	678	651	740	726	681
Unconfirmed Members Who Communed	17	18	106	99	97	100
Funerals	17	14	16	13	19	12
Baptisms	23	24	15	15	32	14
Transfers In	18	47	13	35	64	15
Transfers Out	18	13	22	12	13	6
Confirmed	41	20	38	33	29	26
Marriages	8	8	9	4	6	9
Total Weekend Services	153	152	151	155	154	155
Average Attendance at Weekend Services	344	331	296	273	304	297
Average Attendance at:						
Lenten Services	192	202	198	159	155	204
Advent Services	130	127	169	198	80	79
Attendance at:						
Ash Wednesday Services	338	311	275	272	262	307
Holy Thursday Service	101	136	192	158	131	212
Good Friday Services	144	196	153	133	138	146
Easter Services	815	780	646	617	678	631
Thanksgiving Eve Service	153	31	92	50	107	70
Christmas Eve Services	755	772	732	782	827	828
Christmas Day Service	32	50	56	56	59	59
Enrollment in Sunday School – Pre-K—5	155	142	130	122	126	110
Sunday School Staff	44	52	39	22	30	28
Confirmation Staff	27	31	30	30	33	29
Confirmation Grade 6	30	29	32	32	23	20
Confirmation Grade 7	35	32	33	31	36	25
Confirmation Grade 8	39	33	32	30	33	31
Confirmation Grade 9	22	40	33	31	29	33
Vacation Bible School Enrollment	34	38	50	30	30	34
Vacation Bible School Adult Staff	5	20	34	8	13	13
Vacation Bible School Youth Staff	6	24	15	10	11	23
Sugar Creek Bible Camp	29	28	22	12	11	14

## **HOLY BAPTISMS**

Ellie Tlustosch  
Alise Jochen  
Olivia Haun  
Madisyn Haun  
Emma Haun  
Brennan Kennedy  
Camden Gullickson

Kiryra Eckland  
Madison Mueller  
McKenna Mueller  
Mason Knebes  
Kason Schulz  
Collin Fennigkoh  
Beau Kneifl

## **CONFIRMATIONS**

Layne Anderson  
Jonathan Arentz  
Evan Arneson  
Jayden Beckley  
Carlie Burkhardt  
Aunna Carlson  
McKenzie Fitzpatrick  
Brent Heilman  
Molly Hunter

Zachery Ihle  
Anna Jacobson  
Alexander Jeranek  
Abby Johnson  
Austin Kennedy  
Courtney Koepf  
Sarah Novak  
Katherine Nuttleman  
Travis Reedich

Theodore Tiber  
Emily Trautman  
Mallorie Trautsch  
Isaac Trocinski  
Emily Ungerer  
Alexis Van Riper  
Lillia Walsh  
Hayley Williams

## **FUNERALS**

Dorothy Coelin  
Gladwin Romskog  
Iva De Young  
Nancy Campbell  
Claudette Monson  
Deanna Simrell

Joanne Schmid  
Kimberly Kastner  
Marilyn Kirkeng  
Clara Johnson  
Gregory Hanson  
Raymond Osiecki

## **MARRIAGES**

Jonross Edmison and Marissa Christopherson  
Bradly Hafner and Amie Kamla  
Andrew Schlifer and Audrey Fradette  
Lee Elsen and Daysha Gorniak  
Brian Myers and Elizabeth Wee  
Derek Wilbur and Ashley Friell  
Jeffrey Kingsley and Tracy Chmura  
Jason Hollerman and Kimberly Lien  
Joshua Sherry and Samantha Averbek

## **TRANSFERS OUT**

Kathy Anderson  
Kristin Benz  
Rachel Byers  
Ashley Grimsliid  
Roger and Carol Grow

## **TRANSFERS IN**

Lee Elsen  
Daysha Gorniak  
Kevin, Sarah, Taylor and Justin Hennessey  
Jason Hollerman  
Kimberly Lien  
Scott and Tricia Storandt, Sydney and Mitchell Dunham  
Marilyn Silbaugh (reactivation)  
Karen and Madelyn Wozney

## **MEMBERS IN NURSING HOMES & ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES**

### **MULDER HEALTH CARE FACILITY**

Janet Akey  
Leona Gilbertson  
Bob Gullickson  
Bev Nelson  
Vicki Olson  
Lois Willinger

### **LAKEVIEW HEALTH CENTER**

Joanne Nelson  
Delia Raffelson

### **CLARE BRIDGE - LA CROSSE**

Arne Marking

### **EAGLE CREST - ONALASKA**

Marie Seibert  
Harriet Slack

### **ST. JOE'S REHAB – LA CROSSE**

Carolyn Haldeman

### **BETHANY ST. JOE'S – LA CROSSE**

Gloria Liles

### **SALEM TERRACE**

Dorothy Bahan  
Harold Dahl  
Doris Yeske

### **MILL STREET MANOR**

Dawn Andres  
Arlan Gilbertson  
Gertrude Johnson  
Fern Mellor  
Fred Meyer

### **BOTHNE HOUSE - COON VALLEY**

Lydia Ferguson

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As we complete our second year led by Pastor Jon and Pastor Jean our direction becomes clearer. Many in our congregation have thought or questioned, "What will our direction become?" - Serve a growing and changing congregation and their needs? Manage a budget? Attend to an aging worship facility and successfully manage our rental assets? This all sounds like business as usual here at Our Savior's. Our faith allows us to answer these questions. Strong leadership and a congregation that is supported by faithful worship.

We continue to be anchored by our youth programs. Sunday School attendance is on the rise. The newly formatted confirmation program continues to flourish. The Christmas program with the Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade was again a crowd pleaser. Due to space restraints, the program was again held at the Presbyterian Church. The mission trip was to Puerto Rico this summer where the students held a weeklong bible school and served many. Lives of students and teachers were changed in many ways. Also, the new summer lunch program served 100+ on Wednesdays. Other changes that occurred were the retirement of Pastor Vern Skarstad and longtime Counter Lynnette Wick relocated.

Is direction critical in Our Savior's commitment to Christ and survival in 2015? The answer is yes! Whether written and orchestrated by a well-meaning committee, bringing in a paid consultant, or direction that is lived daily through the notion that he lives and that doing his work will lead us in that direction.

I feel we are prepared to embrace the future here at Our Savior's.

Yours in Christ,

Mike Alumbaugh

## CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

### Council Members

Mike Alumbaugh, President	Mark Hunter	Sandi Stavlo, Secretary
Marjorie Anderson	Ruby Kerkman	Pastor Jon
Dottie Baumgartner	Vernetta Moe	Pastor Jean
Char Buelow, Vice President	Jim Quamme	
Rich Clements	Ken Spraetz	

### New in 2014

Audit Committee. Wayne Affeldt, Jim Anderson, Andy Bakkum

Duties include:

1. Auditing existing smaller accounts



2. Serving as contact for outside audit
3. Reviewing insurance coverage
4. Reviewing financial procedures and recommending changes where necessary

Emergency Task Force. The goal of this group is to create emergency procedures for a "child safe" building.

Property Research Committee. Fran Noffke, Ken Spraeetz, Carl Wallace  
This committee is charged with investigating zoning and property appraisals to expand parking lot.

Worship Study Task Force. Linda Berg, Mike Larson, Scott Mitchell, Dean Olson, Corey Sjoquist, Carol Wittenberg. This group was formed to look at worship services to see if the services are meeting the needs and likes of the congregation. As a result of studying the Means of Grace, changes have been made to the bulletin in the Welcome to Worship and the information about Holy Communion sections. (i.e., not requiring baptism for people to take Communion)

### **Action on Business Items**

#### Financial.

- Realigned budget funds by combining, renaming or discontinuing funds
- Appointed Audit committee to review smaller accounts and make recommendations
- Contracted outside auditor to audit books and issue a report
- Approved an additional \$1000 to Campus Ministry for 2014 and an additional \$2000 for each of the next three years

#### Organizational.

- Reviewed and updated church constitution
- Continued mission discernment process with small group sessions
- Reviewed descriptions and expectations for Council Committees
- Hired new custodian, Dave Nelson and counter, Karen De Schepper

### **Mark Your Calendars**

January 25, 2015. Annual Meeting

Members will vote on proposed changes to the Constitution and Endowment Fund.

March 1, 2015. Congregational Conversation

This important meeting gives everyone a chance to voice their thoughts on the direction our church will take in the future, look at space issues and the future of church properties. Come be a part of the conversation.

Sandi Stavlo

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR OUR  
CHURCH COUNCIL NOMINEES**

NAME: Steve Ahles  
SPOUSE: Sue  
CHILDREN: 7  
DATE JOINED THIS CHURCH: 2008  
OCCUPATION: Sales - Gerdau  
PAST INVOLVEMENT IN THE CHURCH: Ushered at previous church  
HOBBIES: Woodworking, music, outdoor activities  
ADDRESS: W3897 Wolter Road, West Salem, WI 54669

NAME: Tracey Beckley  
SPOUSE: Paul  
CHILDREN: Justin, Jayden, Jarron  
DATE JOINED THIS CHURCH: 1971  
OCCUPATION: Dental Assistant  
PAST INVOLVEMENT IN THE CHURCH: Help with set-up of Lutefisk Dinner, June Dairy Days, Sounds Like Love, Senior Choir, Corn Roast, other youth events  
HOBBIES: Reading, volleyball, softball, spending time with my family, and watching my boys in sports, music, theater and show choir.  
ADDRESS: W2916 County Road B, West Salem, WI 54669

NAME: Carlie Burkhardt  
DATE JOINED THIS CHURCH: Baptized February, 14, 1999  
OCCUPATION: Student at West Salem High School  
PAST INVOLVEMENT IN THE CHURCH: Acolyte, helped with 4-K Sunday School, Praise Band, Communion Assistant, Assist with Corn Roast and June Dairy Days Run  
HOBBIES: Music/instrumental, volleyball, shopping  
ADDRESS: N5069 Wildflower Lane, West Salem, WI 54669

NAME: Wendy Kane  
CHILDREN: Kamryn  
DATE JOINED THIS CHURCH: 2013  
OCCUPATION: Mail/shipping Site Coordinator  
PAST INVOLVEMENT IN THE CHURCH: Senior Choir  
HOBBIES: Reading, baking, movies, sewing, music  
ADDRESS: 717 E. Garland Street, Apt. 1, West Salem, WI 54669

**NOMINEES FOR DELEGATES TO  
SUGAR CREEK BIBLE CAMP**

Marty Frank  
Jeff Haldeman

**NOMINEES FOR DELEGATES TO  
BETHANY LUTHERAN HOME CORPORATION**

Larry Blunck  
Jim Michelson

**NOMINEE TO THE ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE**

Judy Long

**ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

Administration Committee members included Mike Alumbaugh, Char Buelow, Corey Sjoquist, and Ty Tlustosch. As in past years, the first task of the Administration Committee was to build the annual budget. Working closely with the Executive Committee, the Treasurer, and Pastor Jon Schmidt, the Administration Committee presented a proposed budget to the Church Council and then the congregation at the Annual Meeting.

The Administration Committee was responsible for hiring one staff position at Our Savior's this year. Rob Wiese resigned from the custodial position in May. During the interim, several members from Our Savior's ensured that basic custodial tasks were completed and we are thankful for their assistance. After interviewing applicants for the custodial position, Dave Nelson was offered and accepted the position. He started in the custodian role in August and we have found his familiarity with Our Savior's to be very beneficial.

Corey Sjoquist

**AUDIT COMMITTEE**

The Audit Committee consists of members Wayne Affeldt, Jim Anderson and Andy Bakkum. All accounts and funds have been audited through 2013 and there were no irregularities found. Committee members audited the Youth Committee account, Library account, WELCA account and the Dorcas Sewing Circle account. Marguerite Thompson, CPA, performed the audit of the main books.

Jim Anderson

## **MISSION ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE**

It was with great pleasure that the Mission Endowment Committee was able to disburse \$11,800.00 to Missions in 2014.

Funding for this comes from interest that was earned on the Endowment Fund that is invested. The purpose of the Fund is to enhance the mission outreach of Our Savior's Lutheran Church apart from the general operation of the congregation; no portion of the income generated by the Fund shall be used for the annual operation budget of the congregation.

Donations are always welcome. Many are given from memorials, bequests, wills, honoring birthdays, anniversaries and holiday gifts.

We were privileged to have Rev. Larry Westfield, Regional Gift Planner, Lutheran Planned Giving of Wisconsin make a presentation to the Endowment Committee, church council and interested members of the congregation. His presentation was designed to encourage everyone to have an up-to-date estate plan, with consideration to include a bequest for the Lord's work.

Members of the Endowment Committee are Judy Long, Paul Ranum, Denise Jones, Jeanette Carlson and Lee Fernstaedt.

We trust God will care and provide for us, providing ways to give to others so that they may be blessed as well.

This year the money was disbursed as follows. (See next page)



**MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND  
2014 FINANCIAL REPORT**

**Assets**

ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust (269.5131 shares) (*share value as of September 30, 2014 @ \$1,205.674516)	\$324,945.14*
River Bank Money Market Checking Balance	\$10,188.31
River Bank Easy Checking Balance	\$11.00

**Income**

Money Market Checking Interest	\$24.57
Contributions	\$1,545.00
ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust Dividends	\$12,007.39

**Expenses**

Distribution (as detailed in Committee Report summary)	\$11,800.00
--	-------------

Submitted by  
Jeanette Carlson, Financial Secretary

**OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

The Outreach Committee's mission statement is "to reach toward God and to each other for the sake of the world!" As the Church Council adopted committee definitions, this group more clearly defined their role and goals for the year and future.

"The Outreach Committee shall work to engage the congregation in meeting the needs of the community around us. It shall seek out opportunities to connect with the community through publicity and involvement in community activities. The committee shall encourage congregation members and friends to become connected in ministry within and without the congregation. It shall also work to welcome and integrate new members into the life and ministry of the congregation."

2014 was a busy year for the Outreach Committee, as they worked to accomplish the following through the hard work of additional congregational members:

- The West Salem Business Expo, held in March each year, allowed committee members to share a display portraying Our Savior's staff, members, and various activities that our congregation is involved with throughout that year. Handouts with info regarding church services and activities were available, along with goldfish crackers (fake lutefisk). A drawing for a free dinner at the annual Norwegian Dinner was given out.
- New members were welcomed through a picture display in the Fellowship Hall, as well as through cards sent by Outreach Committee members.
- Meals were provided at The Common Ground, the Protestant Ecumenical Center on the UW-La Crosse campus, ministering to UW-L, Viterbo, and WTC students.

- Members assisted with the June Dairy Days Fun Run.
- The Community Corn Roast was held in August, in combination with the second annual car show. This event seems to get bigger every year, and is an enjoyable mixing of congregation and community members.
- Advertisements were published in the Coulee News at Easter and Christmas time. In addition, an ad was placed in the River Valley summer tourism publication.
- Subscriptions to *The Lutheran* were provided to each family at OSLC. This is currently being reviewed.
- A HUGE project for committee members and staff this year was the new Church Directory, which should be available in January. Being able to connect faces with names is such an invaluable asset, as our congregation grows and we strive to make new members feel welcome and connected.

Thank you to those of you who assisted in our church's outreach. Your impact is far-reaching and your work is appreciated. We welcome anyone who would like to join the Outreach Committee! Meetings are the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at 7 p.m.

Char Buelow

## **PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

The Property Committee currently consists of Carl Wallace, Barbara and Dennis Manthei, Jim Quamme, Robert Wiese and Mike Alumbaugh.

Updates in 2014 include:

- New granite countertop in downstairs kitchen
- New lighting in the sanctuary

Our equipment purchased in 2013 (buffer and carpet shampooer) allowed us to step up our ability to care for the facility in 2014. Purchasing these helped us do tasks in house rather than outside vendors coming in, thus saving us money.

Robert Wiese stepped down as custodian to employment elsewhere. We thank Rob for his hard work and contributions to OSLC. A familiar face, Dave Nelson, returned as custodian. At this time, Rob rejoined the Property Committee. As usual, minor repair and maintenance continued on church properties and buildings.

Mike Alumbaugh

## **RENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

The Rental Management Committee was created in 2012 to conduct business and communication with our tenants. Fran Noffke, Jim Anderson, Wayne Affeldt, Jim Quamme and Mike Alumbaugh are the current members.

This year the committee managed the Day Care, the former parsonage, 345 N Leonard Street and 421 N Leonard Street. Minor repairs and improvements were completed on the three homes. A new lease was drafted and signed by Child First.

The leases on the parsonage and 345 N Leonard Street expire in July 2015. The lease at 421 N Leonard Street continues to be month to month.

Mike Alumbaugh

## **SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

The Our Savior's Scholarship Committee was given the opportunity to award seven 2014 graduating seniors with scholarships towards continued education this year. The recipients are as follows:

Adolph and Esther Marking Scholarship: \$500 to Asher Carlson

Adolph and Esther Marking Scholarship: \$500 to Taylor Novak

Michelson Scholarship: \$500 to Mikaela Hunter

Michelson Scholarship: \$500 to Cathryn Bottem

Dr. Kenneth Kolb Jr. Scholarship: \$500 to Sara Frank

Dr. Kenneth Kolb Jr. Scholarship: \$500 to Katelyn Rigotti

Ken and Norma Piper Scholarship: \$500 to April Haldeman

In addition, we were given the great honor of developing a new scholarship opportunity this year. In partnership with a generous donation, we have established a scholarship in the name of Homer Moe to meet the needs of our non-traditional students that wish to actively pursue post-secondary education, new certifications, or additional education opportunities. Applications and descriptions will be made available in January. We are excited to meet the needs of other educational opportunities and advancements of God's work through the hands of each recipient!

Dana Roemhild



## **SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

The Social Committee had a fun and active 2014 while hosting and or supporting various events following the church year, which included:

### Events:

- Annual Meeting Luncheon
- Lenten Supper
- Sunday School Teacher Appreciation Luncheon
- Gospel on the Green
- Senior Members Appreciation Luncheon
- Christmas tree and church decorating

The Social Committee is also responsible for coordinating volunteers and supplies for the coffee hour between services on Sunday. We continue serving Fair Trade coffee and having other Fair Trade items for sale. The committee encourages more members of the congregation to become involved with serving during the fellowship hour.

The Social Committee hopes these events enhance fellowship between members. New ideas or suggestions are always welcome. If you are interested in joining the Social Committee, please contact the church office.

**Social Committee members:** Jean Fernstaedt, Beth and Rich Clements, Ilene Pavelko, Pam Gresens, Jeff and Melissa Haldeman, Stacey and Corey Sjoquist

Rich Clements

## **STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

The members of the Stewardship Committee were as follows: Pastor Jon, Tim Tiber, Stacy Mitchell, Kay Niemeier, Eric Ender and Ken Spraez.

One of the highlights of the Stewardship Committee was another session of Financial Peace (Dave Ramsey) this last fall. Eric Ender and Tim Tiber again took the lead in the seminar for approximately eight family units. We have continued to try to make this a topic of stewardship as a year round topic. Everyone on the committee felt that this was an approach that should be continued from year to year.

This year we also continued the "Stewardship Corner" in the monthly newsletter. This gives us a way to highlight many of the ways our members give to Our Saviors. The focus of stewardship is in all of our gifts and not just monetary gifts.

In our fall campaign, we used the theme "Our Saviors Makes a Difference." We used this theme to show all of the members of our church, the ways that "We Make a Difference" in the lives of our members and lives of members of our community.

We used this theme to help challenge a financial response. There were five temple talks to encourage giving to the church financially plus time and talents. Celebration

weekend was held November 8 and 9 to promote this challenge. As of December 31, 2014, 441 estimate of giving cards were mailed and 106 cards have been returned with a total of \$186,000.00 in pledges.

The Stewardship Committee, during a weekend in October, helped to sponsor a special "Information Fair" to show the members the many ways that "Our Savior's Makes a Difference." We also will be highlighting one of these ways each month in the Gathering Area during 2015, called "Mission Central."

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank everyone for giving of their time, talents, and treasures to the church and for being good stewards of everything God gives us.

Ken Spraetz – Chairman  
Stewardship Committee

### **WORSHIP COMMITTEE**

The Worship Committee at Our Savior's works to coordinate the worship services for each season of the church year. We explore opportunities to make worship interactive, spiritual and welcoming. The many parts of worship, including the gospel, psalms, and hymns are coordinated. The committee also reviews previous services to reflect on ways to improve the worship experiences at Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruby Kerkman  
Council Representative

### **WORSHIP EXPLORATION TASK FORCE**

The Worship Exploration Task Force was created during the summer of 2014. Task Force members include Linda Berg, Mike Larson, Scott Mitchell, Pastor Jean Schmidt, Corey Sjoquist, and Carol Wittenberg. They met for the first time in September.

The Task Force was asked to explore three topics:

1. Communion Practice at Our Savior's
2. Variety of Worship
3. Space Needs for Worship

Meeting on a monthly basis, the Task Force utilized "*The Use of the Means of Grace*," a statement on the practice of word and sacrament from the ELCA, to guide discussion. The Worship Exploration Task Force expects to complete its review in early 2015.

Corey Sjoquist

## YOUTH AND FAMILY COMMITTEE

“But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.” Matthew 6:3-4

Each year the annual report comes around, and each year I find myself thinking, “so much of our ministry does not happen in front of our member’s eyes.” We live in a world that calls for complete accountability of production value for the money we spend. We are consistently pushed for higher productivity, but what happens when our work for the Lord isn’t quantifiable? I 100% believe in financial accountability and transparency in church finance. I am, after all a mathematics major, but when looking at the time spent in our work, most of our work will not come through in our financial statement.

How do we convey the depth of meaning for the students that come to our office seeking counseling because they either cannot afford, or do not have an option for professional counseling? How do we quantify the personal walks with Christ, and the intense Christ-like moments of our mission students as they put food and clothes in the hands of hungry children in Puerto Rico, or rebuild homes after the effects of hurricanes in the region? How do we strive for greater productivity for our youth group students that wrestle with their doubts of faith through bible study, but consistently show up and ask for more as they come to know Christ? How do we show the look in the eyes of the children that stood in the rain waiting for the Summer Lunch Program volunteers to show up with their lunches this summer?

Names and faces will never be given to each heart turned to Christ, and each life touched by the hands of our volunteers. The results will never show on our financial statement, and our members do not see it on a Sunday morning. However, this is the true work of the church. We come to church, not to be fed, but to feed. And most of the time, that feeding is done with the right hand when the left hand is not looking.

Of course, much of our work has indeed grown and reached out to many this year. In July, 31 students and leaders traveled to the south side of Puerto Rico to serve the Belgica community of Ponce. They opened their hearts and hands to some of the deepest levels of poverty their eyes have seen and made a decisive difference in the lives of Puerto Ricans, and their own.

On the home front, a Summer Lunch Program was initiated by a team of caring hearts to serve students during the summer months with a nutritious lunch option. On average 80 students were fed each week with the helping hands of countless volunteers and donations.

Our Girls Night Out program has expanded to a Youth Group format with an emphasis on study. We are currently working through the Truth Project series confronting our doubts of faith with the Truth God has given us through his Word.

The after school program continues to gather and feed our confirmation students on each Wednesday night. We have added elements of art expression and service to our activities along with the fun and fellowship we enjoy.

Thank you for your trust this past year, for the work that you see and the work that you don't see, as we work daily to turn hearts to Christ. And thank you for your trust moving forward as the work of the Lord is not yet finished!

Dana Roemhild

<b>Youth Committee Financial Report 2014</b>	
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$16,266.08</b>
<b>In Flow</b>	
6th Grade Retreat	\$140.00
8th Grade Retreat	\$192.00
2014 Mission Trip	\$30,834.86
2015 Mission Trip	\$180.00
Bike Blessing	\$207.00
Donations	\$190.00
Easter Breakfast	\$431.75
Flamingos	\$2,455.00
Scrip Cards	\$104,985.00
June Dairy Days	\$1,850.00
Lenten Dinner	\$1,377.29
Peaches	\$19,511.75
Sounds Like Love	\$320.00
2015 7th & 8th Grade Retreat	\$685.00
Payment on return check	\$175.00
<b>In Flow Balance</b>	<b>\$163,534.65</b>
<b>Out Flow</b>	
6th Grade Retreat	\$210.00
8th Grade Retreat	\$200.00
2014 Mission Trip	\$41,426.61
2015 Middle School Retreat 7th & 8th	\$640.00
Bank Fees	\$20.00
Checks	\$21.54
Easter Breakfast	\$248.48
Family Shares Paid Out	\$1,379.30
Hand Radios	\$26.25
Lefse Making	\$49.91
Lenten Dinner	\$560.26

Peaches	\$13,428.00
Peaches Refunds	\$54.00
Returned Check	\$202.00
Scrip Cards	\$113,115.00
Sounds Like Love	\$640.00
<b>Out Flow Balance</b>	<b>\$172,221.35</b>
<b>Current Balance</b>	
<b>Amount Owed to Kwik Trip</b>	<b>\$4,387.50</b>
<b>Amount Owed to Festival</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Amount Owed to Woodmans</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Gift Cards on Hand</b>	
<b>Kwik Trip</b>	<b>\$5,060.00</b>
<b>Festival</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>
<b>Woodman's</b>	<b>\$3,450.00</b>
<b>Pending Deposit</b>	<b>\$2,910.00</b>

**SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF**  
2014-2015

Pastor Jean Schmidt

Music: Mike Larson, Shannon Vick, Ilene Pavelko, Linda Berg

Pre-K – T: Michelle Witte  
T: Kim Arentz  
H: Jared Witte  
H: Kirin Linse

Kindergarten –  
T: Molly Hunter  
T: Emily Trautman  
H: Rebecca Schmidt

Grade 1 – T: Ann Donahue  
H: Aidan Donahue  
H: Kamryn Kane

Grade 2 – T: Allison Rigotti  
T: Danielle Schultz  
H: Tayler Jones

Grade 3 – T: Wendy Kane  
T: Kim Schmidt

Grade 3 – T: Stacey Sjoquist  
T: Kara Gavaghan

Grade 4 – T: Rita Schmitz  
T: Megan Larson

Grade 4 – T: Jaime Fortier  
T: Kim Witte  
H: Alea Fortier

Grade 5 – T: Eric Iliff

Substitutes: Marjorie Anderson, Jeanne Marcou, Beth Clements, Shannon Wiese

## CONFIRMATION

Confirmation ministry continues to be a major part of Our Savior's Youth Ministry, and one of the largest such ministries in the La Crosse Area Synod. In the spring of 2014, 26 young people affirmed their baptisms and embraced (we pray) their role as disciples of Jesus. Currently, close to 120 kids are a part of the program, from 6<sup>th</sup> grade to 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Many of the confirmands, particularly the 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders, also participate in the Wednesday After School Ministry.

The confirmation curriculum is designed to teach and nurture confirmands as disciples of Jesus. The curriculum engages students in a variety of ways, with a focus on their growth in both faith and service to Jesus.

6<sup>th</sup> graders are taught by Corey Sjoquist and Sarah Hennessey, studying the Bible from Genesis to the "genesis" of the church in the New Testament, with numerous stops along the way! 6<sup>th</sup> graders also serve as basket holders in worship.

7/8<sup>th</sup> graders are taught "university" style. Pastor Jon teaches the core classes, and is joined by Pastor Jean, Dana, and a number of lay volunteers in teaching electives. Each student takes eight core classes and five electives, ranging from Bible, to worship, to service, to learning about faithful living. Students are also in small groups for learning and fun, with adult guides. They are asked to be in worship on a regular basis, and to serve as basket holders and ushers.

7/8<sup>th</sup> grade group guides for the current year are:

Dawn Anderson	Kim Hansen
Jim Anderson	Megan Haun
Pam Arneson	Beth Jacobson
Cindy Averbek	Joyce Larson
Tamie Batzel	Todd Michael
Scott Friell	Jim Quamme
Mary Gavaghan	Kim Tiber
Michelle Giblin	Jen Wheeler
Tim Goodenough	

9<sup>th</sup> graders have some fun as they explore discipleship, with Pastor Jon as their instructor. They learn about gifts and monsters, share a Halloween party with younger kids, and a meal with a senior citizen or couple. They consider the gift of family, and the gift of wealth. Finally, they prepare for the Rite of Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation), which, in 2015, will be on Sunday, April 26.

9<sup>th</sup> grade group guides this year are:

Megan Collins	Paula Steele
Mary Gavaghan	Paulette Schomberg
Tom Grosskopf	Kristen Tschumper
Karen Rich	Daryl Wermedal

THANK YOU to ALL our group guides who have served our young people – and our Lord – so faithfully! This program doesn't happen without group guides! We also thank Laura Fitzpatrick for the behind the scenes work of tallying worship notes.

New kids are always welcome, and for kids who join later in the program, we work with them to make certain confirmation is of value to their growth as disciples of Jesus. Your support, especially your prayer support, is always appreciated. For more information, see Pastor Jon or Dana.

## **OUR MINISTRY IN THE WORLD**

Our Mission Statement says our congregation exists "...for the sake of the world." In support of that mission, entrusted to us by a gracious and giving God, we expend over 15% of our general income for ministry outside of our congregation. In addition, 80% of the Mission Endowment Fund disbursement, and 100% of the proceeds from the Norwegian Dinner goes to ministries out in the world, in the community around us, and across the globe, all making a difference in the lives of people. We are grateful to our ministry partners for what they accomplish on our behalf.

LA CROSSE AREA SYNOD AND THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH—We bring the gospel to people around the globe through our synod and churchwide ministries. We support missionaries in other countries, begin mission congregations, support seminaries and colleges of our church. We join together in times of disaster and help one another recover. Our synod and churchwide offices provide our congregation with services and programs to enhance the life of our congregation.

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES—We support the caring ministry of Lutheran Social Services throughout Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, as well as, the local office of LSS. LSS provides counseling and adoption services, alcohol and drug abuse intervention, services for the disabled, and other programs. Our benevolence dollars help those unable to afford such services to receive them and help LSS provide congregational programs.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF—Our financial gifts are channeled through the World Hunger Appeal for Lutheran World Relief efforts, one of the premier relief organizations in the world. Dozens of quilts, health kits, school kits and layettes find their way to people with special needs. In addition, financial contributions to world hunger and "God's Global Barnyard" make a life-saving – and changing – difference to many! We feed, clothe, and provide for others as our Lord has commanded us to do.

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE FUND—This small fund is supported by local congregations and the Salvation Army. It provides a central place where travelers and transients can receive emergency vouchers for gas and food on their journey.

LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY (COMMON GROUND)—Lutheran Campus Ministry works with students from UW-L, Viterbo, and Western. The ministry works out of Common



Ground, and coordinates its work with Crossroads Campus Ministry, sharing the building and many of the ministries. Worship, Bible Study, forums, counseling, retreats, mission trips, and fellowship are all available to students through this ministry. In January 2015, Pastor Ben Morris begins his ministry as the new campus pastor. Pastor Jon serves on the Lutheran Campus Ministry Board, and we have provided meals and conversation during the pastoral vacancy. Our Savior's is recognized by Bishop Arends as a core congregation supporting Campus Ministry.

**CAUSEWAY**—Our Savior's joined Causeway Interfaith Caregivers, Inc. in 1998. Causeway matches people willing to volunteer their time with people in the community with needs not met by other programs. Several people from the congregation volunteer in the program.

**SUGAR CREEK BIBLE CAMP**—We are fortunate to have a great Bible Camp within easy driving distance. Sugar Creek Bible Camp provides ministry to over 7,000 people each year. In addition, they have a year-round retreat ministry with great facilities. We have used the camp in a variety of ways over the years. Our financial support makes ministry happen at the camp. In 2014, Marty Frank and Jeff Haldeman served as delegates to Sugar Creek's annual meeting.

**BETHANY LUTHERAN HOMES, INC.**—Begun by area Lutheran Churches in the late 40's, this nursing facility now has connections with Gundersen Lutheran. Bethany provides a variety of care options for people in our communities from full-service nursing care, to assisted living, to congregate living, to caring for people with Alzheimer's. In 2014, Larry Blunck and Jim Michelson served as delegates to Bethany's annual meeting.

**COMMUNITY CARE AND SHARE FOOD PANTRY**—Our Savior's hosts the food pantry, and provides financial, material, and people support to this ministry. The pantry provides emergency food to a significant number of people throughout the year. Gifts to the pantry are always welcome, and food items can be left in the cart at the back of the sanctuary.

**SPECIAL PROJECTS**—Each year new opportunities arise for mission and ministry. This year we have worked on a number of special projects, including:

- The **MALARIA CAMPAIGN** with the ELCA is an effort to wipe out malaria in Africa. Gifts have been given from a variety of sources, but especially from our Sunday School children.
- **WATER282** is a challenge presented to us by Alan and Jessica Bateman, to raise \$7000 to provide a well for the village of Chazwe in Zambia. To date (early January) we are almost there, and we await word of the successful drilling of a well, providing water without having to walk miles!

**AND YET EVEN MORE**—Check out the Mission Endowment Fund report and the WELCA report (Norwegian Dinner proceeds) to see other ministries we have supported, ministries that touch lives! Your gifts and support have helped make all this possible.

***Thank you for your partnership as we seek to do "God's work with our hands!"***

## **ALTAR GUILD**

A small, faithful group of women work behind the scenes to ensure that our altar area is ready for worship each week. Paraments and banners are changed according to the seasons of the church year, numbers on the hymn board reflect what is happening during worship, the communion ware is readied for the communion assistants, preparations are made when there are baptisms, weddings, or funerals, the candles are filled, and other tasks are completed as they arise. We usually meet once a year to review any changes in the way things are done. For the most part, we have teams of two people to help lighten the load and share the tasks. Each team serves once or twice a year. Please feel free to join us with this important work of the church.

Pastor Jean

## **BIBLE STUDY MINISTRY**

A group of twelve to fifteen people gathers each Wednesday morning to learn and to share insights about God and His people, using the Bible as the springboard for discussion. We have studied the books of Genesis, Job, and Revelation and are currently studying the book of Mark. Discussions progress from sharing our everyday activities to how God is working in the lives of the people we are studying, to how their experiences relate to our lives, and to ponder what these things mean for each of us.

Pastor Jon leads the studies, everyone participates, all benefit. We are learning to know each other in ways that increasingly strengthen the bonds of friendship; we are thankful.

Everyone is welcome. No experience is required. Drop by any time.

Vernetta Moe

## **COLLEGE MINISTRIES**

The longer we are here, the more young adults we have been able to connect with. The group of high school seniors who headed off to college this past fall included students with whom we have had a relationship, students who have been active in the life of the congregation during these last two years. As time goes on, we will know more of these young adults and hopefully they will want to maintain their connections to "home." In order to keep in contact with all of our students as they head off to college, we have asked for their email addresses, along with their campus addresses. Periodically the students are sent emails of encouragement, news, and prayers. Also, at the time of semester exams, "care packages" are sent to let them know they are not forgotten and that they continue to be important to us. If others would like to join with me to keep in contact with our college students, I'm guessing more than one connection would be appreciated.

Pastor Jean

## **COMMUNION MINISTRIES**

Helping serve communion has always been a meaningful ministry to me, even before I became a pastor. Sharing the body and blood of Christ, being part of providing the meal that we all so desperately need, can be powerful and is a privilege. Our communion assistants prepare the elements and then help distribute them when we have Holy Communion. Our confirmation students help by holding the baskets for the empty cups. Younger children ask if they can help do that, too ... how wonderful that they want to be a part of our worship experience!

There are those who also take communion to our homebound and shut-in members. Another gift to be able to share with those who can't be here with us in community.

Pastor Jean

## **COMMUNITY CARE AND SHARE PANTRY**

In our 22 years of service, we cannot thank the churches, schools, businesses, organizations and individuals enough! It's the volunteers and all those who donate who make the Community Care and Share Pantry possible.

In 2014, the food pantry was able to provide food and some non-perishables for 1,107 adults and 541 children. That's a decrease from the previous year of 45 adults and 15 children. The numbers served are going in the right direction.

Located in the basement of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, the food pantry is serving the people of Bangor, Barre Mills, Melrose, Mindoro, Rockland and West Salem. It is open every Saturday, unless it falls on a holiday, from 10 a.m. until noon.

"...for I was hungry and you gave me food..." Matthew 25:35. Jesus' words are both a command and a challenge to all of us to care and share with all those in need!

Judy Long

## **GREEN THUMB COMMITTEE**

The Green Thumb committee's mission is to take care of the greenery inside the church and outside in the summer months. We try to have an inviting atmosphere for the congregation and for visitors and change our greenery for the seasons. Lynnette Wick has moved away and we are now down to two members and one honorary member, Alice Gums. If anyone would be interested in joining our committee, please give either Vicky Johnson or Eleanor Lee a call and we would appreciate the help.

Vicky Johnson

## **DORCAS SEWING CIRCLE**

Balance on hand January 1, 2014	\$367.75
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Gift from Sandi Stavlo	\$100.00
Sold 3 baby quilts @\$10 at Lutefisk Dinner	\$ 30.00
Total Assets	\$497.75
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Tea	\$ 2.00
Plates	\$ 1.25
12 Spools of thread	\$ 38.50
Needles	\$ 9.50
Old sheets	\$ 8.00
Batting	\$ 9.00
Fabric	\$267.15
Total Expenses	\$335.40
Balance on hand January 1, 2015	\$162.35

Respectfully submitted,  
Norma Piper

## **FAIR TRADE COFFEE AND CHOCOLATE**

In November, we listened to a presentation by Jason Clifton, a seminary classmate of Bonnie Klos. Jason brought finely crafted decorative and utilitarian items that are made in Guatemala. Vermillion, SD, is home to a gift shop for these "Sharing the Dream" items. Jason emphasized that we are "fair traders" when we do business with our own local artisans, tradesmen, and service people.

Then there's the global outreach of our church as well. One of the missions of the ELCA is to support fair trade. Lutheran World Relief is a partner with Equal Exchange, a highly respected worker owned cooperative.

This July, Ilene Pavelko attended a Fair Trade breakout session at the WELCA Triennial Gathering in Charlotte, NC. Presenters shared stories of farming families whose lives have been improved thanks to LWR and Equal Exchange. Cooperative members seek stable prices for their harvest. As a result, young adults are not leaving as they have a future in farming or work in their community. Child labor is not allowed. Community clinics have been built. Health screenings are available where they had not been

before. "There are stronger family units and schools where Lutheran World Relief is strong," reported Don Rubin, the LWR speaker. Isn't that great to know!? And so, we continue to offer fair trade products here at Our Savior's. Though we do not have all the possible products from 28 countries, we offer a sampling of coffee and chocolate for now. Come see what's on the cart. Watch for Fair Trade coffees being served during fellowship hour the first Sunday of the month, starting February 1!

Thank you to Kay Niemeier for her help with ordering. And to Lynnette Wick who continued the project until her departure this fall.

Judy Gilbert and Ilene Pavelko

## **LIBRARY**

Our Savior's church library provides a wide variety of printed materials for children and adults. There is also a small collection of DVDs and videos.

Several new fiction and nonfiction books have been purchased and processed throughout 2014. The selection process includes recommendations from Our Savior's members, referencing book reviews in *The Lutheran* publication, and reviewing internet sites, plus the experience of two formally trained librarians. Check the area displaying new books in the library.

Donated books are accepted if they are in good condition and appropriate for a church library. To recommend books to be considered for the library collection, please contact one of the committee members listed below.

Library Committee members are Doris Michelson, Bonnie Ender, Roberta Gruen, Jan Goetzinger, and Barbara Manthei.

### **Library Financial Report 2014**

Beginning Balance 1/1/2014	\$338.80
2014 Total Interest Earned	+0.73
Memorials and Gifts Received 2014	+570.00
Books Purchased 2014	<u>-231.10</u>
Ending Balance 12/31/2014	<b>\$678.43</b>

Barbara Manthei

## **MAILING CREW**

The Mailing Crew usually meets on the last Wednesday of the month at 8:30 a.m. to assemble the Newsletter. The members of this crew have found it a time of work and fellowship as they fold and label the newsletters.

Members of the Mailing Crew are Connie Blunck, Bev Bockenbauer, Bonnie Ender, Sandra Holthaus, Russ and Diane McClintock, Inger Michael, Judy Morzinski, Carol Ann Noel, Carol Peterson, Paul and Marilyn Ranum, Rich and Mary Storandt, and Betty Whitlock.

We also thank Bob and Myrtle Roraff for their years of service with the Mailing Crew. Bob passed away January 5 and will be missed by the Crew.

Kay Niemeier

## **MARY & MARTHA PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

The Mary & Martha Prayer Shawl Ministry continues to provide a variety of shawls to be given to many individuals:

- Shut ins
- Those suffering illnesses
- Hospitalized patients
- Grieving families
- More recently to non-infant children & adults being baptized.

We would like to take this opportunity to share the impact of "One Shawl"—the comfort it provided and the lives that it changed. The names in this tale are fictitious, but the story is true!

Several years ago, a member of the Our Savior's congregation, "Anne," had a surgical procedure that required extended rehabilitation and the need for an in-home care giver. Her sister "Sue" came a very long distance to provide this care. Their mother "Linda," also a member at Our Savior's, visited often, too. One afternoon, while the three women were together at "Anne's" home, a clergy member from Our Savior's came to visit, bringing along several prayer shawls. One was given to "Anne" as a comfort after her surgery; "Linda" declined the offer of a shawl as she had been given one previously. The clergy-person encouraged "Sue" to accept one, but she was very reluctant, stating, "I don't deserve one; I didn't have surgery-I'm not even a member of the church." She was told that there are no requirements for receiving a shawl, that her kindness in helping her sister was reason enough. She finally did receive a shawl that she thought was very beautiful. When "Anne" was recovered and "Sue" returned to her home she took the shawl with her. It held a place of honor on the back of a dining room chair where she could always see it.

One or two years after receiving the shawl, "Sue" learned that a neighbor woman, with whom she had only a relationship involving "back yard greetings", had suffered a recurrence of a cancer that had been in remission. The neighbor's husband asked "Sue" if she would consider visiting his wife, as she was very lonely. Family was several states away, and she had no close friends. "Sue" arranged a visit, and was immediately aware of how appreciative the neighbor woman was to have company. She also noticed that the woman was very chilled, and throughout their visit was pulling a heavy cardigan sweater around her. This made "Sue" think of the warm, soft, lightweight shawl that she had been given, and decided to give it to her neighbor. On each subsequent visit, the ill woman was always wrapped in the shawl.

The friendship between the neighboring families grew during this time. The couple had two adult sons who lived with them, but none of the men in the family were accomplished cooks, and the woman was too ill to cook. Sue made a habit of preparing a large casserole or other meal that she brought to them each week when she would come to visit her new friend.

Ultimately, the woman died. The family had planned a visitation and memorial service in the area where they were living, but then a return to the original home half way across the country for the funeral. Before the visitation, the grieving husband came to "Sue" to ask a special favor—he claimed to be "no good" at choosing women's clothing, and asked if she would look through his wife's closet and choose an appropriate outfit for her to be wearing. Much to his relief and pleasure, "Sue" found very attractive clothing for the woman to be dressed in.

Then, just before the visitation, he visited her again. He and his sons felt that because the shawl had given so much comfort to their wife and mother, they wanted her to be wrapped in it for the memorial service and later for the funeral, but they felt they needed "Sue's" approval before doing this. She said that it was a very good thing for them to do, but the husband still had reservations. "We aren't of the same faith as you. Are you sure it would be all right?" She assured him that it was, and the family gratefully proceeded with their plan.

"Anne" and "Sue's" mother, "Linda," shared this story with our Prayer Shawl group. We found it especially touching, and have made another shawl for "Sue" in a blend of her own favorite colors.

We continue to extend our sincere thanks for gifts of completed shawls, yarn, memorials, and monetary gifts that are used to purchase yarn. Thank you all for your generosity!

We now meet in the Gathering Area from 1-3 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of each month. All are welcome—join us for needlework, laughs, or help with learning to knit or crochet!

BLESSED BE-  
Carol Wittenberg

## **MUSIC MINISTRY**

Music is an important part of the ministry of most congregations. That's true here at Our Savior's. Music in worship is one of the ways that we can communally express our faith in the God who deserves the highest praise. We make a conscious effort to coordinate the message of the service between the Word and the music.

Much planning goes on to provide music at Our Savior's. Eric Sorenson is the Director of the Senior Choir. Linda Berg and Kathy Brisson play for our three worship services each weekend. They also provide worship leadership for weddings and funerals. Connie Pinski has also substituted as organist for us.

The Senior Choir has between 25-30 members who sing about three times a month for worship. The Sounds Like Love Choir is a high school choir that practices in the fall and attends a national choir festival in the Twin Cities. The Handbell Choir meets to perform for special occasions. Some of our high school and adult musicians accompany choir anthems with their instruments or provide special music for services. The SOS Band accompanies our worship services about once a month, and again represented us at June Dairy Days. The High School Praise Band meets to work on contemporary Christian music and has provided prelude music for services. Guitar classes are offered on Sunday evenings to anyone interested.

We appreciate the Sunday School choirs, which practice for a few minutes each Sunday and share what they have learned with the congregation. Mike Larson, Shannon Vick, and Ilene Pavelko lead music in the Sunday School.

It is exciting to "mix and match" music between these groups and try different combinations depending on the music. We are fortunate to have an abundance of talent and a cooperative spirit in all our groups!

Linda Berg

## **PRAYER MINISTRIES**

One can never get enough prayers to help them through challenging times as well as joyful times. The power of prayer can be very humbling. To be a pray-er does not take special skill or training, just the willingness to stop for a moment, engage in a "conversation" with God, and lift up the hurts and pains, challenges and sorrows, joys and milestones of those in our community. At Our Savior's we have an email "prayer chain." Periodically requests are sent out for prayers to be lifted up. Confidentiality is respected and only enough information is shared to get the message up to God ... this is not a "gossip mill" and usually there is not enough information given for one to "assume" they know who the person is who is being prayed for, unless the person specifically wants to be "known." There can never be enough prayers lifted up ... why not join us!

Pastor Jean



## **SENIOR MINISTRY**

Large print devotionals, hearing devices, home visits by our pastors and other similar things have been provided for seniors at Our Savior's for some time. More recently an intentional effort has been made to focus on all available activities and services for seniors, bringing them under a single 'umbrella' called Senior Ministry.

A coordinating committee was formed, services reviewed and some additional things added. At the beginning of 2014 we identified a group of elders, those in our congregation 80 years old and older, as those among us who often cannot attend worship, can no longer actively participate in church activities, etc., but many of whom have long been active members, and made a decision to acknowledge all as still valued members who are due our respect. Our efforts began by sending them greeting cards on their birthdays, at Easter and at Christmas. Get well and sympathy greetings are sent whenever needed. A Senior Recognition event in September, something we hope to repeat every 3 to 5 years, was well received by all who participated. DVD's are made of weekend worship services and are always available in the church office. Someone is always available to deliver them if you call the church office.

The OWLS group, originally begun for anyone 55 and over, has been active for several years and is continuing to be valued by some of our seniors. Any senior who wishes is welcome to participate in the varied program activities. Meetings are enjoyed each month except November and December.

Monthly Bible studies are offered at Salem Terrace the second Monday of each month. Anyone interested is welcome. Coffee and light refreshments are offered.

The coordinating committee hopes to continue to expand its activities as we go forward. If you have ideas appropriate for this ministry please see any of the committee – your suggestions are welcome; we would also appreciate your participation on the coordinating committee. Any age is welcome!

Vernetta Moe

## **TAPE MINISTRY**

A DVD is made of a worship service every Sunday and is available to shut-ins or anyone interested in viewing it. Also available are audiocassettes of various types of Christian music, the Bible on tape, spiritual talks, Bible studies, past sermons of former Pastors, special events, etc. There is also the Bible on CD's. For a list or more information, contact Connie Blunck, 786-0684, or [clcblunck@centurylink.net](mailto:clcblunck@centurylink.net), or call the church office, 786-0030, and they can be delivered. There is a DVD player and audiocassette player available for use.

Connie Blunck

## WELCA

### WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

#### WELCA Budget Report - 2014

##### Officers

President: Inger Michael

Secretary/Treasurer: Bonny Goodenough

##### Starting Balance on 1/1/2014

WELCA Checking	<b>\$1,093.87</b>
WELCA Savings	<b>\$1,046.85</b>

##### Receipts

Kitchen Fund Memorial	\$60.00
WELCA Donations	\$20.00
Funerals	\$2,149.45
La Crosse Area Synod Luncheon Donation	\$200.00
Lutefisk Dinner	\$11,002.85
Ruth Circle Offering & Coffee Donations	\$602.00
Prayer Shawl Donations	\$150.00
School Kits Donations	\$90.00
Baby Quilts Donations	\$50.00
Transfer from Savings for Triennial Attendees	\$300.00

**Total Receipts** **\$14,624.30**

##### Disbursements

Sam's Club (Synod Luncheon)	73.65
Festival (Synod Luncheon)	271.20
Kwik Trip (Synod Luncheon)	2.00
Norma Piper (Paper towel)	10.00
Hansen's IGA (Funerals & Dinner)	3481.50
Linda's Bakery (Funerals & Dinner)	54.44
La Crosse Area Synod	186.00
Augsburg Fortress	40.00
WELCA Triennial Donation	100.00
Judy Morzinski	13.98
Inger Michael (Paper towel)	9.48
USPS (Dinner)	36.75
Our Savior's (Schilling Supplies Reimburse)	168.96
Walmart (Cranberry Bowls Dinner)	162.72
Cash Withdrawal (Dinner Cash Drawer)	450.00
Ilene Pavelko (Triennial Attendee Donation)	150.00

Connie Blunck (Triennial Attendee Donation)	150.00
Lynette Ender (Dinner Supplies)	147.41
Dorcas Sewing Circle (Quilt Sale @ Dinner)	30.00
Countryside Lefse (Dinner)	945.00
River Valley Newspaper (Dinner)	249.45
Embroidery Express (School Kits)	275.00
Jane Halverson (Fruit Baskets)	120.00
Carol Wittenberg (Prayer Shawl Supplies)	150.00
Alice Pfaff (Baby Quilt Supplies)	25.00
<b>WELCA Donations</b>	
Tip Jar 2013 & 2014	540.00
World Hunger	500.00
World Missions	500.00
Lutheran World Relief	500.00
Lutheran Social Services	500.00
Sugar Creek Bible Camp	100.00
Jail Ministry	100.00
Our Savior's Library 2013 & 2014	400.00
Lutheran Campus Center	100.00
New Horizons	400.00
Salvation Army	1000.00
Red Cross	500.00
Lutheran Disaster Relief	100.00
La Crosse Clothes Closet	100.00
Trinity Lutheran Clothes Closet	100.00
Synod Seminary	400.00
St. Clare's Health Mission Sparta	200.00
Zambia Well Project	600.00
La Crosse Warming Center	500.00
Quilt Shipment Fund	200.00
<b>Ruth Circle Donation</b>	
WELCA La Crosse Area Synod	50.00
OSLC - Water 282	100.00
New Horizons	70.00
Children's Vision International	70.00
Care & Share Food Pantry	70.00
Salvation Army	100.00
Good Shepherd - Lutheran Campus Ministry	50.00
OSLC Youth - Bonnie Klos	60.00
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>15212.54</b>
<b>Starting Balance on 1/1/2015</b>	
WELCA Checking	<b>505.63</b>
WELCA Savings	<b>746.85</b>

# Asset Report - 2014

Account #	Account Name	End of year Balance
-----------	--------------	---------------------

***Assets***

1.00.100	Passbook Savings	595.93
1.00.200	Interest Checking Account	94,142.56
1.00.300	1 <sup>st</sup> National MM Account	38,880.12
1.00.400	Mission Investment Fund	15,833.28
1.00.600	1 <sup>st</sup> Nat. CD-Schonsby bequest	33,248.48
1.00.605	Harris Bank CD-Schonsby bequest	102,158.66
1.00.607	Edward Jones Account	77,564.05
1.00.608	ELCA Endowment Fund Asset	<u>115,519.58</u>
	<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$477,942.66</b>

***Liabilities***

2.00.656	La Crosse Area Synod ELCA	<u>100.00</u>
	<b>Accounts Payable</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>
2.00.200	Federal tax deposit	1,356.11
2.00.300	State Withholding tax	405.47
2.99.999	Liability Float Account	<u>1,500.00</u>
	<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$3,361.58</b>

<b>FUND REPORT</b>				<b>2014</b>
3.00.000	GENERAL FUND			\$ 53,599.33
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>				
3.00.100	BUILDING FUND			\$ 9,118.77
3.00.102	FAMILY & ED. DIRECTOR SALARY			\$ 4,646.67
3.00.106	SABBATICAL FUND			\$ 8,410.80
3.00.108	FACILITY NEEDS			\$ 3,658.12
3.00.109	SOCIAL FUND			\$ 2,595.10
3.00.111	LEWIS LOAN FUND			\$ 3,002.23
3.00.112	YOUTH MINISTRY FUND			\$ 6,599.44
3.00.113	MUSIC FUND			\$ 758.71
3.00.114	SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSION FUND			\$ 1,357.43
3.00.115	CHOIR FUND			\$ 1,230.91
3.00.116	EMERGENCY FUND			\$ 5,020.25
3.00.117	FLOWERS			\$ 20.00
3.00.118	CONFIRMATION EXPENSES			\$ 382.66
3.00.121	MARKING SCHOLARSHIP			\$ 20,233.19
3.00.122	NEW FACILITIES/PROGRAMS			\$ 184,858.72
3.00.127	EGGEN SEMINARY SCHOLARSHIP			\$ 6,912.69
3.00.313	EGGEN/ANDERSON CAMPER SUPPORT			\$ 1,863.54
3.00.314	GREEN THUMB FUND			\$ 719.90
3.00.315	DENNIS & BARBARA MANTHEI SCHOLARSHIP			\$ 250.00
3.00.319	EDUCATION FUND			\$ 2,507.12
3.00.320	ENDOWMENT FUND			\$ 1,395.12
3.00.321	CLIFF MICHELSON SCHOLARSHIP			\$ 51,000.00
3.00.322	PIPER SCHOLARSHIP			\$ 500.00
3.00.339	KOLB SCHOLARSHIP			\$ 1,000.00
3.00.340	FAIR TRADE COFFEE			\$ 1,648.71
3.00.342	EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT FUND			\$ 4,408.80
3.00.445	THRIVENT CHOICE INCOME			\$ 2,423.00
3.00.446	HUNGRY JAR			\$ 1,269.39
3.00.447	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR BUILDING NEEDS			\$ 12,714.20
3.00.455	HOMER MOE SCHOLARSHIP			\$ 5,000.00
<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>				
3.00.125	MEMORIALS/BEQUESTS			\$ 36,226.25
3.00.126	OTHER CLEARING ACCOUNTS			\$ 9,601.33
3.00.323	ADMINISTRATION-BEQUEST			\$ 1,193.81
3.00.324	OUTREACH BEQUEST			\$ 2,050.70
3.00.325	STEWARDSHIP-BEQUEST			\$ 2,157.29
3.00.329	WORSHIP-BEQUEST			\$ 672.04
3.00.330	JOHNSON HOUSE FUND			\$ 7,645.45
3.00.336	DISASTER RELIEF TEAM			\$ 2,635.00
3.00.344	INTEREST FROM INVESTMENTS			\$ 7,364.36
3.00.448	JOHNSON HOUSE SOUTH FUND			\$ 1,502.50
3.00.449	PARSONAGE FUND			\$ 3,675.90
3.00.450	SENIOR MINISTRY FUND			\$ 751.65
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCE</b>				<b>\$ 474,581.08</b>

# 2014 Budget Report 2015 Proposed Budget

## Income

		2014 Budget	2014 Actual	2015 Budget
4.00.101	General Envelope	313,000.00	283,482.00	300,000.00
4.00.102	Loose	9,264.62	10,428.35	10,000.00
4.00.104	Lent	4,219.74	5,271.00	5,250.00
4.00.107	Christmas	8,029.44	8,702.00	8,250.00
4.00.111	Lutheran	300.00	219.00	300.00
4.00.113	Rental-Day Care	24,900.00	24,900.00	26,100.00
4.00.114	Interest	0.00	164.51	200.00
4.00.123	Sunday School Contr	1,000.00	990.00	1,000.00
4.00.126	Johnson North	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
4.00.128	Johnson South	5,400.00	6,275.00	5,400.00
	Parsonage	0.00	0.00	9,300.00
	Other	750.00	3,034.00	1,200.00
	Transfer from Fund	6,000.00	6,000.00	3,000.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>378,863.80</b>	<b>355,465.86</b>	<b>376,000.00</b>

## Expense

		2014 Budget	2014 Actual	2015 Budget
5.00.101	La Crosse Synod	32,000.00	32,000.04	32,000.00
5.00.104	Campus Ministry	4,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
5.00.107	Sugar Creek	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.00.108	LSS	6,500.00	5,958.34	4,000.00
5.00.109	Food Pantry	100.00	0.00	100.00
5.00.110	Community Assistance	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.00.111	Causeway	800.00	800.00	800.00
5.00.112	<u>WS Fire Dept</u>	<u>200.00</u>	<u>200.00</u>	<u>200.00</u>
	<b>Mission Total</b>	<b>43,600.00</b>	<b>43,958.38</b>	<b>42,100.00</b>
5.00.201	Salary, Senior	47,226.00	47,226.00	47,226.00
5.00.202	Benefits, Sr Pr	23,153.00	21,508.40	25,239.00
5.00.203	Housing, Sr Pr	13,890.00	13,890.00	13,890.00
5.00.204	Cont Ed, Sr Pr	800.00	387.52	800.00
5.00.207	FICA, Sr Pr	4,184.22	4,184.16	4,184.22
5.00.208	Books, Sr Pr	300.00	0.00	300.00

5.00.209	<u>Synod Mtg, Sr Pr</u>	<u>400.00</u>	<u>790.88</u>	<u>400.00</u>
	<b>Senior Pastor Total</b>	89,953.22	87,986.96	92,039.22
5.00.301	Salary, Assoc Pr	36,465.00	36,465.12	36,465.00
5.00.302	Benefits, Assoc Pr	18,160.48	16,652.98	19,481.84
5.00.303	Housing, Assoc Pr	10,725.00	10,725.12	10,725.00
5.00.304	Cont Ed, Assoc Pr	800.00	752.67	800.00
5.00.305	Books, Assoc Pr	300.00	242.93	300.00
5.00.306	Synod Mtg, Assoc Pr	400.00	412.88	400.00
5.00.307	<u>FICA, Assoc Pr</u>	<u>3,230.80</u>	<u>3,230.65</u>	<u>3,230.80</u>
	<b>Assoc Pastor Total</b>	70,081.28	68,482.35	71,402.64
5.00.401	Choir Director	5,100.00	5,200.00	5,202.00
5.00.402	Organist	11,458.00	10,826.25	11,708.00
5.00.404	Office Secretary	28,777.00	28,776.96	29,352.00
5.00.405	Treasurer	3,953.52	4,031.04	4,033.00
5.00.406	Maintenance	14,500.00	10,461.20	14,040.00
5.00.407	Employer FICA	6,920.55	5,969.19	6,527.67
5.00.408	Counter	1,642.20	1,774.40	1,674.00
5.00.409	Dishwasher	450.00	346.80	450.00
5.00.410	Dir Youth & Family	15,912.00	15,912.00	16,230.00
5.00.411	<u>Music Coordinator</u>	<u>2,448.00</u>	<u>2,683.32</u>	<u>2,640.00</u>
	<b>Lay Salaries</b>	91,161.27	85,981.16	91,856.67
5.00.530	Conference/Conv	1,600.00	810.00	1,000.00
5.00.531	Property Insurance	6,750.00	4,342.50	5,750.00
5.00.532	Worker's Comp	2,350.00	1,486.50	1,750.00
5.00.533	<u>Pulpit supply</u>	<u>500.00</u>	<u>509.72</u>	<u>500.00</u>
	<b>Administration</b>	11,200.00	7,148.72	9,000.00
5.00.501	Outreach Committee	1,200.00	1,030.55	1,200.00
5.00.503	Lutheran Subscription	3,400.00	3,083.44	1,500.00
5.00.504	Senior Ministries	500.00	817.90	500.00
5.00.505	<u>OWLS</u>	<u>300.00</u>	<u>65.47</u>	<u>300.00</u>
	<b>Outreach</b>	5,400.00	4,997.36	3,500.00
5.00.510	<u>Parish Activities</u>	<u>600.00</u>	<u>1,097.79</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>
	<b>Social</b>	600.00	1,097.79	1,000.00
5.00.520	Stewardship Comm	250.00	62.50	200.00
5.00.521	<u>Envelopes</u>	<u>1,800.00</u>	<u>1,328.49</u>	<u>1,500.00</u>
	<b>Stewardship</b>	2,050.00	1,390.99	1,700.00

5.00.540	Music Supplies	600.00	666.63	700.00
5.00.541	Worship Supplies	5,000.00	3,416.58	4,500.00
5.00.542	Devotional Materials	675.00	625.80	675.00
5.00.543	<u>Copyright Fees</u>	<u>525.00</u>	<u>511.00</u>	<u>525.00</u>
	<b>Worship</b>	6,800.00	5,220.01	6,400.00
5.00.550	Parish/Adult Ed	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.00.551	Sunday School	3,500.00	3,861.00	3,500.00
5.00.552	Confirmation	900.00	560.07	700.00
5.00.553	<u>Vacation Bible School</u>	<u>500.00</u>	<u>866.93</u>	<u>600.00</u>
	<b>Education</b>	4,900.00	5,288.00	4,800.00
5.00.560	Youth Program Support	1,750.00	1,730.68	1,750.00
5.00.561	Sugar Creek Campers	1,400.00	1,400.00	1,400.00
5.00.563	College Student Support	500.00	315.00	500.00
5.00.906	<u>Family Ministries</u>	<u>300.00</u>	<u>140.18</u>	<u>250.00</u>
	<b>Youth</b>	3,950.00	3,585.86	3,900.00
5.00.600	Postage/Petty Cash	2,200.00	2,620.00	2,600.00
5.00.601	Office Supplies	3,500.00	4,149.96	4,000.00
5.00.602	Copier Expense	3,500.00	3,713.57	4,000.00
5.00.604	Office Equipment	500.00	160.99	500.00
5.00.605	Software Support	1,000.00	1,332.35	1,250.00
5.00.606	Auto Expense/Mileage	3,500.00	3,393.04	3,500.00
5.00.607	Audit	900.00	850.00	900.00
5.00.609	<u>Internet/Telephone</u>	<u>2,400.00</u>	<u>2,215.58</u>	<u>2,600.00</u>
	<b>Office</b>	17,500.00	18,435.49	19,350.00
5.00.700	Gas-church	4,750.00	6,522.96	6,000.00
5.00.701	Electric-church	10,000.00	9,419.68	10,000.00
5.00.702	Water/Sewer-church	1,300.00	1,053.89	1,300.00
5.00.705	General Maint/Repairs	15,000.00	11,338.63	11,000.00
5.00.706	<u>Green Thumb</u>	<u>300.00</u>	<u>402.45</u>	<u>300.00</u>
	<b>Building</b>	31,350.00	28,737.61	28,600.00
5.00.903	<u>Johnson South Maint</u>	<u>250.00</u>	<u>282.24</u>	<u>0.00</u>
	<b>Capital Improvements</b>	250.00	282.24	0.00
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	378,795.77	362,592.92	375,648.53



1. RESOLVED, that Our Savior's Lutheran Church accept the recommendation of the Congregation Council to purchase the property located at 352 Mill Street North, and
2. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the purchase price and conditions for the purchase recommended by the Congregation Council be accepted and affirmed.
3. RESOLVED, that Our Savior's Lutheran Church ratify the changes to the constitution adopted at its special meeting of October 26, 2014.
4. RESOLVED, the Our Savior's Lutheran Church adopt the constitution revisions as recommended by the ELCA at the 2013 Churchwide Assembly, and the Congregation Council at its meeting of November 10, 2014.
5. RESOLVED, that Our Savior's Lutheran Church adopt the bylaw changes as recommended by the Congregation Council at its meeting of November 10, 2014.

## INDEX

Annual Meeting Minutes and Special Congregational Meeting.....	2, 3, 4
Church Council.....	5, 16, 17
Committees:	
Administration .....	19
Audit.....	19
Education .....	10, 11
Mission Endowment and Financial Report .....	20, 21, 22
Outreach .....	22, 23
Property .....	23
Rental Management.....	24
Scholarship.....	24
Social .....	25
Stewardship .....	25, 26
Worship .....	10, 26
Worship Exploration Task Force .....	10, 26
Youth and Family and Financial Report.....	27, 28, 29
Financial Report and Proposed 2015 Budget .....	44, 45, 46, 47, 48
Ministries:	
Altar Guild .....	34
Bible Study Ministries .....	34
College Ministries.....	34
Communion Ministries .....	35
Community Care and Share Pantry.....	35
Dorcas Sewing Circle.....	36
Fair Trade Coffee and Chocolate .....	36, 37
Green Thumb .....	35
Library and Library Financial Report .....	37
Mailing Crew.....	38
Mary and Martha Prayer Shawl Ministry .....	38, 39
Music .....	40

Prayer Ministries .....	40
Senior Ministries and OWLS .....	41
Tape Ministry .....	41
Nominee Information .....	18, 19
Our Ministry in the World:	
Bethany Lutheran Corporation .....	33
Causeway .....	33
Community Assistance Fund .....	32
Community Care and Share Pantry .....	33
La Crosse Area Synod of the ELCA .....	32
Lutheran Campus Ministry (Common Ground) .....	32, 33
Lutheran Social Services .....	32
Lutheran World Relief .....	32
Sugar Creek Bible Camp .....	33
Pastoral Ministry Report	
Senior Pastor .....	6, 7, 8, 9
Associate Pastor .....	9, 10, 11, 12
Baptisms .....	14
Confirmations .....	14
Funerals .....	14
Marriages .....	14
Members in Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities .....	15
Statistical Report .....	13
Transfers In .....	15
Transfers Out .....	15
President's Report .....	16
Resolutions .....	49
Staff	
Church .....	5
Confirmation .....	31, 32
Sunday School .....	30
WELCA Financial Report .....	42, 43