In God’s Grace each dawn is a gift and every day is a miracle ...

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.

Ecclesiastes 3:1
Financial Update

Christopher Buse, Treasurer

With social distancing, many of you may be wondering how Our Savior’s Lutheran Church is doing from a financial perspective. The short answer is that we are weathering the COVID19 crisis just fine, thanks to the amazing generosity of our members.

We started out 2020 with member giving that exceeded our budgetary projections. However, member giving fell below budgetary targets when COVID19 forced us to discontinue in person services in March. As people grew accustomed to on-line services, revenue recovered to the point where we are now only 6% below our overall member giving target. Both our Finance Committee and Board feel incredibly fortunate to only be down 6% in the midst of a global pandemic.

Relatively positive revenues have allowed us to continue all church ministries as planned. Though our Finance Committee is watching spending closely, the good news is that Our Savior’s Lutheran Church is fully equipped to help our members and continue supporting the community at large in this time of crisis.

As Treasurer, I feel incredibly blessed to work closely with a team of talented volunteers who serve on the Finance Committee. Even during the pandemic, our committee met every month to oversee the fiscal activities of our church. I also feel blessed to have Susan Smith at my side as our Business Manager. Each month, Susan comes to our committee meetings armed with charts, graphs, and statistics to help all of us fulfill our fiduciary responsibilities.

I would like to conclude by thanking all of you for your continued support. It is the generosity of our members – both financially and through volunteer efforts – that allows us to fulfill our important mission in Christ.

Finance Committee: Christopher Buse, Treasurer; Susan Smith, Business Manager; Karna Moskalik, Pastor; Orv Johnson, Member; Joel Frost, Member; Marty Guinee, Member; Amber Buresh, Member; Ray Valley, Member; Larry Puckett, Member
Won’t you be my Neighbor?  September Sermon Series

- Sept 13: Welcome to the Neighborhood. (Prodigal Son)
- Sept 20: Won’t you be my neighbor? (Good Samaritan)
- Sept 27: Love your Neighbor as yourself (Great Commandment)

When I was a very little girl, there were amazing neighbors that lived across the street from me. Their names were Grace and Bernie. These two were so full of joy and welcome. Grace and Bernie were from the senior generation and we attended the same church. When I moved into the home across from them, Bernie built a step for me to walk into my place. Grace looked like Mrs. Claus and she always had a fresh batch of chocolate chip cookies fresh out of the oven every day! Both of them always had a smile on their faces and a kindness about them.

I had always heard the word “Grace” before, but I was convinced until I was 12 years old that it had only two meanings: Grace was a person—found in my neighbor. Grace was also a prayer that we’d say before a meal. Grace of course, is also the gift of God’s undeserved love toward us in an unforgiving world.

In a contentious world, we long for real grace in our lives. Instead of meeting my next door neighbors from childhood, Mr. Rogers was a pastor that taught incredible values on television of this love we have in God. “Won’t you be my neighbor?” sermon series will remind us of the grace and love we find in Jesus. This will empower us to live into our mission to “Demonstrate God’s love to all.”

The Story: Bible Study Book Club and Worship Series in October

- Do you like to be a part of a book club?
- Have you ever tried to read the whole Bible?
- Have you ever wondered how the whole narrative of scripture seams together?

If you’ve answered, “yes,” to any of these questions, you’ll be excited to know about an incredible opportunity at Our Savior’s. Beginning in October, we will start a new sermon series that will walk us through the whole Bible. “The Story,” is an NIV translation of the Bible in 31 chapters that reads like a compelling novel. In a short amount of time, you will learn the whole story of God’s great love for us in the word.

Worship will offer a weekly video retelling of the story of the week. There will also be multiple Bible Studies offered as well. I’m calling this “Bible Book Clubs.” As we study God’s word together in this exciting way, I’m encouraging all of OSLC to participate in these weekly studies. This will be a wonderful way to stay relationally connected with others, enjoy fellowship and be reminded of God’s love in the word.

“The Story: The Bible as One Continuous Story” books are available to pick up at the church on Monday-Thursday 1-5 PM, Wednesday evenings, or you may contact Pastor Karna for other arrangements: karna@oslcstillwater.org. This Bible book study is complimentary and made possible through the Carol Rosenwinkel memorial fund.

The Story Bible Study book club will be held with Pastor Karna

- Sunday Mornings at 10 AM on Zoom. This will include a neat feature of a “break out room,” where small groups will take place and a large group time will be offered as well.
- Wednesday Mornings at 10 AM in the church parking lot (weather permitting) or zoom.
- Wednesday Evenings at 6:30 PM after the parking lot worship experience.
- *You may also choose to create your own small group “Bible Study Book Club” to gather weekly in person or virtually.
*Register for the Bible Study Book club on sign-up genius, or e-mail Pastor Karna: karna@oslcstillwater.org
Resurrection Team Update

The science and safety team and the caring branch team both continue to meet to discern safety and spiritual well-being of all members. Based upon the recommendation of the Science and Safety Team and approved by the Board, here is what our current worship plans will look like this fall. In many ways this is a bit of a “hybrid model” of some on online and some in person.

- **Sunday Mornings:** Pre-recorded on-line worship at 9 AM
- **Wednesday Evenings:** Parking Lot worship at 6 PM (Beginning on September 16th) with the option of sitting in your car listening to the radio transmitter or sitting in lawn chairs at safe social distances. Masks are encouraged.

The Science and safety team will also monitor infection rate trends and see how this virus is impacted by the start of school. The Caring Branch and trained Calling Tree members to check-in on others. If you would like to be a part of the calling tree, contact Pastor Karna at karna@oslcsstillwater.org

The Synod Assembly Meets on Zoom September 25th and 26th

This year’s synod assembly will be taking place virtually. As this is an election year in our country, it is also an election year for our synod as we pray and discern in calling a bishop. The board and Pastor Karna would like to thank the following members who are serving as voting members: Maxine Enfield, Greg Otsuka, Paul Renslo and Don Schuld.

Volunteer, Membership and Baptism Spotlight

- **Volunteers:** Our Savior’s is so very thankful for our many volunteers. We would especially like to thank Maxine Enfield for serving as a counter for 22 years. Linda Bosch served as a counter for 15 years.
- **Interested in Membership?** Contact Pastor Karna: karna@oslcsstillwater.org
- **Interested in Baptism?** Contact Pastor Karna: karna@oslcsstillwater.org

Worship and Music

Worship and Music at OSLC has always been spirited - and continues to be during this time of pandemic!

March 1 included 8:00 AM Traditional Worship, 10:30 AM Family Worship, 4:00 PM Activate Senior High Worship and March 4 at 11:30 AM & 6:30 PM we began Lenten Wednesday *Holden Evening Prayer* on-site and continued as ever until, without missing a beat…

March 15 Worship moved Online to Sundays at 9:00 AM and Wednesdays at 6:30 PM with Bulletins available to download. Wednesday LIVE Drive-Up Worship Channel 100.1 FM West Parking Lot began July 22 at 6:30 PM with the Praise Team.

Thanks be to God for Pastor Karna, the Praise Teams, Musicians who offer their musical gifts, Readers of the Word, Cantors who sing the Hymn of the Day, the Technology Team, Kathy Newton who publishes bulletins, those who adorn the Altar with flowers, Worshipers near and far!

Upcoming Virtual Kingdom Choir Dates: September 27, October 25, November 25, December 24.

Staff and Worship Planning meetings continue via Zoom.

Similarly to the “With One Voice” Supplement (1995) that augmented “Lutheran Book of Worship” (1978) forthcoming in November will be a Supplement to “Evangelical Lutheran Worship” (2006) entitled “All Creation Sings.” This new resource will include two additional settings of Holy Communion; a contemplative service of word and prayer; additional prayers, thanksgivings, and laments; and 200 hymns and songs. To explore: augsburgfortress.org/allcreationsings
For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them. ~ Matthew 18:20

I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong — that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith. ~ Romans 1:11-12

Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. ~ Hebrews 10:24-25

As I think about what I love about our church, I think about community. The above verses are some of my favorites when it comes to community. These verses also match our mission statement of being a caring community called by Christ to serve and live in faith. Even during the time of a pandemic, we have managed to continue our mission in many creative ways!

**Summer Recap**

Our youth and I visited with many kids and families through social distancing visits over the spring. The children loved seeing their high school Faith Formation teachers as they visited them at their homes. We met outdoors to share stories, play games, and connect. It was a blessing to have this special time with families.

I was happy to celebrate many of our OSLC children’s birthdays as I participated in birthday parades and delivered goody bags. Several children connected with our elderly through our pen pal program as they wrote notes and sent cards to some of our older generation friends. I have continued to reach out to our families via phone, text, email and notes sent in the mail. I am so thankful that there are so many ways to stay connected!

Over the summer we have continued to meet in person at weekly park days! Families have enjoyed doing a craft and playing together at different parks in the area. Parents and grandparents have been able to support one another and engage with each other while visiting at the park.

We have continued our Mom’s Night Out meetings once a month, hosted by moms and meeting on decks and patios for a time of fellowship. Time For Parents led by Gloria and Marty Guinee also continued to meet via Zoom for most of the spring and summer. Parents have been encouraged and supported during this difficult time and it has been wonderful to see the relationships that have been strengthened.

Though we had to cancel VBS, families were encouraged to do The Fruit of The Spirit lessons at home. Easy lesson plans were provided, and families were asked to post pictures on our Facebook page of kids doing the lessons so the congregation could see all the activities and smiling faces! We also provided Flat Jesus to families and asked them to be sure to bring Jesus with them on their adventures this summer. It was so fun to see families doing the lessons and the adventures that Flat Jesus took this summer with them.

As a member of the Lake Area Discovery Center Board, I have been working with LADC and the OSLC Property and Grounds Committee to plan our new playground! The new playground will not only benefit the children of LADC but be a great place for our OSLC children to play and learn.
Faith Formation — 2020-21

This year our Faith Formation will look different, but we hope it will encourage relationships and bonding as students and their families meet to connect. We will connect through small groups on Zoom or in person at people’s yards or homes for Faith Formation. We will also meet in person outside for worship and activities, while weather permits, and have special events. During this time, we are mindful that families have a lot on their plates and that they are eager to connect. We also know that our faith and our church family are an important part in the faith journey of our children and families. This year especially, it is important to focus on relationships! We plan to have the following ways for children and families to connect and explore their faith this fall. As the situation changes, we may be able to move to in person classes at the church. We will begin with this model for the fall and continue to reevaluate as guidelines change. Registration can be found on our website at www.oslcstillwater.org.

- **Faith Formation: Sunday Mornings at 9:45-10:15 AM** — Students and families with children 3 years old-6th grade will meet via Zoom or in-person to connect and explore a Bible Story. Families will meet via Zoom for an opening time to hear the story. After the large group opening, families will break out into small group Zoom meetings or families may choose to be in person to meet. A parent in the group or group leader will facilitate the session. Each family will decide what works best for them as far as small group in-person meeting or via Zoom. Those who would like to meet in person can choose to meet at a park, yard or home for their small group meeting time. We will use the Faith 5 model — **Share** highs and lows, **Read** the Bible Story, **Talk** about how the Bible story relates to your highs and Lows, **Pray** for each other’s highs and lows and **bless** one another.

- **Wednesday Evening 6:30-7:00 PM (weather permitting)** — Fellowship and outdoor games/activities after the service.

- **Skits online**: Skits will be performed and posted online to tell a Bible story. Students in 3rd-6th grade can perform in the skit (we will film it in small groups, socially distanced in the CLC). Lines will be given out to practice at home. Students will come together to practice and film on the same day. Children at home can watch the skit and experience the Bible story come alive through our skit team. **Contact me if your student is interested in being a part of the skit team.**

- **Music with Miss Natalie or Pastor Karna**: Songs to sing along with will be part of some of our Sunday Zoom meetings and posted online.

- **Time For Parents** will meet via Zoom on Sundays at 10:30 AM: Led by Gloria and Marty Guinee — parents will connect and support each other while discussing important parenting topics.

- **Zoom games or activities for 5th & 6th graders** led by Darla and high School students.

- **Special events**: Watch the eblast for dates for FaithMarkers, Trunk or Treat and other events or activities.

We might need to change the verse in Matthew to read “Where two or three are gathered” **on Zoom**, there am I with them!” No matter where or how we are meeting, we are still staying connected and building relationship in Him! I have seen so many blessings come out of this strange time. Families are spending more time together and priorities have changed. We appreciate things more and many have told me they like the slower pace. I have had the opportunity to visit many of our families where they live and gained a stronger bond. I have been working on trusting God’s plan and knowing that He has it all under control! I am excited for what He has planned for the coming year!

**Rally Day — Sunday, September 13 or Wednesday, September 16**

**Mini Camp Theme**: Families join us for Rally Day on Sunday, September 13 from 9:30 - 10:30 AM and Wednesday, September 16 from 6:30-7:30 PM for tie-dying, bracelet making and outdoor games, weather permitting. Bring a white cotton t-shirt if you would like to tie dye.
Youth Ministry

Hello OSLC! I hope you have all had a great summer and found sometime to destress and relax. This year has certainly turned out to be a crazy one and with all the changes happening, I can imagine that many are trying to find a sense of peace. Please know that you are being thought of and prayed for. There are so many things presently and upcoming that are unknown, but one thing you can know is that your church is here for you as you experience life’s joys and struggles. Below is a brief update on some summer happenings in our Youth and Family Ministry Program as well as some future plans.

Summer Recap

Youth Group Meetings

- **High School Activate Summer Bonfires and meetings** — For the months of June and July our high school group gathered together every Sunday night for games, devotions, and bonfires. Our students were very glad to meet and make up for lost time. A special thank you to all the parents who so graciously offered up their yards for us to enjoy our time together. We really appreciate you!

- **Jr. High Evolve Zoom Meetings** — Shortly after our shelter in place time began, students met for zoom meetings for youth group. We talked about current events, played Zoom friendly games, and had some wonderful faith discussions.

- **Time for Parents Group** — This group continued to meet via Zoom every Sunday morning into late spring. Amazing conversations were had as we served to support each other through a very hard time. A special thank you to Gloria Guinee for her leadership! We will resume these meetings on Sept. 20th.

Upcoming Plans

- Confirmation for 8th and 9th graders will begin September 16th with options for students to meet in-person outdoors or via Zoom. We will need many volunteers on Wednesday nights for set up and take down. Please contact Chad Larson if you can help! Also, our Confirmation Day for 10th grade students has been moved to the spring.

- Sunday Youth Groups will begin September 20th. Jr. High Evolve (grades 7th through 9th) will be from 1-2 PM and Sr. High Activate (grades 10th through 12th) begins at 6 PM.
Our Savior’s Lutheran Church
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Fall Newsletter

Online Worship on Sun. at 9:00 am & LIVE Worship on Wed. at 6:00 pm

A Caring Community Called by Christ to Serve and Live in Faith. Energized, Engaged and Equipped to Demonstrate God’s Love to All.