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| Our Savior's Lutheran Church 3022 W Wisconsin Avenue Milwaukee WI 53208 |
| Annual Report |
| 2017 |
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| **Prepared for the 160th Annual Meeting of the Congregation** |
| **January 28, 2018** |

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New banners!

VBS

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[](http://www.oslcmilw.org)

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# **AGENDA – ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**AGENDA – ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**160TH MEETING OF THE CONCGREGATION**

**January 28, 2018**

Opening Prayer –Pastor Keen

Business Meeting – Wendy Enockson, President

Call to order

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Report of the Nominating Committee

Pastor’s Report

Renew, Rejoice! Project Report – Wendy Enockson

Treasurer’s Report – Frank Schultz, Treasurer

Proposed 2018 Budget

Report of the Foundation - Paula Holman, President

Old Business

New Business

Announcements

Closing Prayer

**STAFF**

## **PASTORAL STAFF**

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Patrick Keen

## **OFFICE STAFF**

### Parish Administrator: Penny Schwid

Finance Director: David M. Wolber

Assistant Treasurer (Volunteer): Linda Moore (2017)

## **FACILITIES MANAGER**

## Alex Letser

## **CUSTODIAL STAFF**

Bennie Thompson

Nila Wooten

Steve Stauss

## **MUSIC STAFF**

### Organist Choir Director: John Seboldt

Pianist (Wednesdays): Isaiah Adams

**CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP**

## **CHURCH COUNCIL**

### President: Wendy Enockson

Vice President: Julie Carr

### Secretary: Mike Festge

Treasurer: Frank Schultz

Tim Larson

Paul Brynildson

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

## Miguel de Jesús

Kari Ziemienski

Anna Johnson

Gail Jacobson

## **OUR SAVIOR’S FOUNDATION**

Paula Holman

Paul Brynildson

Vivian Watkins

Linda Brown

Kris McLean

Chuck Formoe

**MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS**

Archives: Tim Larson

Building and Grounds: LaVonne Williams

Education: Cyndi Benner

Stewardship: Phil Enockson

Worship: Pastor Keen

Yarn: Julie Carr & Kari Ziemienski

**ADDITIONAL GROUPS**

Coffee Hour:

Marie Brynildson, Coordinator October - May LaVonne Williams, Coordinator June-October

Ushers: Steve Oakland, Head Usher

Bennie Thompson, Kevin Gray, Maurice Scruggs, Antoine Roby

Thrivent leaders: Kari Ziemienski, Gary Christianson, LaVonne Williams, Dick Gielow

**MINUTES OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS**

**Minutes of the 159th Annual Meeting of the Congregation**

**January 29, 2017**

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order by President Wendy Enockson.

**Opening Prayer:** Pastor Keen prayed the opening prayer.

**Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved as printed.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the 158th Annual Meeting January 31, 2016 and the Mid-Year Congregational Meeting June 26, 2016 were approved as printed.

**Attention to printed reports:** Wendy referred to the written reports of the Pastor, the President and the Treasurer in the Annual Reports that were available on the tables.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Linda Moore read from and commented on her written report. Pastor Keen referred to the charts on pages 12 and 13 of the Annual Report where it shows that Staff was 56% of the total 2016 Expenditures and Buildings and Grounds was 25%. It was moved and seconded to accept the 2016 Financial Report as presented. Motion carried.

**Proposed 2017 Budget:** Linda presented the Proposed Budget for 2017 with $263,363 total income and $412,504 total expenses for a $149,141 deficit for the year. It was moved and seconded to approve the 2017 Proposed Budget as presented. Motion carried.

**Report of the Foundation:** Frank Schultz commented on the status of the Foundation and its support of Our Savior’s. Pastor Keen commented that at an average of $150,000 needed from the Foundation each year, the Foundation funds will last about 4 years at that rate. If we reduce that need to $100,000 that will give us 5 or 6 years. So we have a goal before us to reduce the amount needed from the Foundation.

**Report of the Nominating Committee & Elections:** Phil Enockson presented nominees for the following positions on behalf of the Nominating Committee.

Congregational Council

Council Vice-President: Julie Carr (2-year term)

Council Treasurer: Frank Schultz (2-year term)

Our Savior's Foundation Board of Directors

Kris McLean (3-year term)

Paul Brynildson (3-year term)

Chuck Formoe (1-year term)

Nominating Committee

Anna Johnson (2-year term)

Gail Jacobson (2-year term)

Lay voting members to the Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly

Maurice Scruggs

Cyndi Benner

Assistant Treasurer (a nonelected position)

Linda Moore

There were no nominations from the floor. It was moved and seconded to accept the slate of candidates as presented. Motion carried.

**Story of “Why”:** Pastor Keen commented on the people who are affected by the ministries of Our Savior’s.

**Renew Rejoice! 2017:** Wendy commented on the Steward for All Seasons effort and the Stewardship Appeal.

**Old Business:** Wendy called for old business. There was none.

**New Business:** Wendy called for new business. There was none.

**Announcements:** Wendy called for new announcements. There were none.

**Closing Prayer:** Pastor Keen prayed the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael O. Festge, Secretary

**Minutes of the Mid-Year Congregational Meeting**

**July 16, 2017**

The Mid-Year Congregational Meeting took the place of the Message during the 10:00 A.M. Worship Service.

**Pastor Keen** We are preparing the soil for new growth at OSLC through the Renew, Rejoice! Project, which is our strategic plan and stewardship program.

**Kari Zieminski** The Stewardship Program is called Stewardship for All Seasons.

**Wendy Enockson** We set some pretty lofty goals.

**Pastor Keen** Increase the Plan for giving to $170,000 and 20 new pledges. Also raise $10,000 for new initiatives.

**Wendy Enockson** We have 15 new commitments from people who have not pledged before. And 90% of the people who made a commitment for 2017 pledged more than they contributed in 2016.

**Frank Schultz** shared highlights and lowlights of the report.

**Paula Holman, Foundation President,** gave us an update on the status of the Foundation.

**Pastor Keen** We raised special gifts totaling $11,000 - To launch new initiatives.

**Wendy Enockson** One is called “Sunday morning experience “.

* **Phil Enockson** talked about Space, Guest Services, Church Visits and Signage.
* **Penny Schwid** talked aboutWorship - summer services, church visits, future service design.

**Wendy and Paula** talked about “Structure and Pruning”.

**Pastor Keen** The third initiative was about “Marketing and Communications” - Tim Larson led the way on that one. Here are some things that have been accomplished.

* A new logo (thanks to Phil Enockson) to use as we move into our 160th year of ministry
* New stationery, envelopes and business cards were printed
* And a new website is in progress

**Pastor Keen** The Growth Engines are what we will be focusing on next - these are the four areas that will help us fulfill our vision to become a church for the city**.**

* Discipleship Path
* Sunday Morning Experience
* Family Ministry
* Heart of MKE

**Pastor Keen** highlighteda card that was included in the bulletin for members of the congregation to indicate ways in which they can engage in the Renew, Rejoice! Project.

The Service resumed with the singing of the Hymn of the Day, “Lord Let My Heart be Good Soil.”

Respectfully submitted,

Michael O. Festge, Secretary

**REPORT OF THE PASTOR**

by Rev. Dr. Patrick Keen

160TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

Each year during our annual meeting we take the time to reflect upon the previous year and to develop a set of goals for the upcoming year. This year’s meeting is not that different! We continue to reflect upon the goals established during our meeting last year and then reported to you during our midyear meeting in June, the adjustments needing to be made to those goals for the remainder of the year.

Those goals came as a result of the Strategic Planning Process we went through with our consultant from the Unstuck Group. At the same time we were attempting to realign our Stewardship to support the strategic plan, to redevelop this ministry by accomplishing many goals and objectives to induce the millennial population into our worship space and to become a part of our worship community.

What has been accomplished by the hands of the few who remain on the front line is to be applauded and celebrated. From our Focus Group discussion to the combining the services, and from the clearing of the clutter to the remodeling of the lobby area, we are seeing positive strategic changes and improvements.

While each of those areas are important there are portions of our plan we have failed to address and this is the most obvious as we look around our sanctuary Sunday after Sunday. We are not doing and effective job of inviting others to be a part of our worship experience. This is an area where each and every member of this congregation has the ability to play a role.

There have been adjustments made to provide more opportunities to invite our friends, family, neighbors, acquaintances and even the strangers that we meet to communion with us. Our 4th Sunday fellowship is *Friends and Family Sunday* and the meal that follows is designed to encourage fellowship between families around a meal, and to expose them to our wonderful ministry and facility. We had a goal of 400 people visiting/worshiping with us in 2017. Whereas we did an adequate job, we fell short of that number because there was little intentionality in our extending our invitations. Not enough of us are extending these invitations and we must create more opportunities outside of worship for those we would invite to come and see.

Attached to this report is a copy of a chart that was a part of the annual report in 2015. That chart showed the membership by age and numbers. It was clear by our own numbers, we had not just one missing population but several and two specifically, those of the youth/children and the millennial or their parents. What is the population our Strategic Plan revealed we should be reaching out to? The same population our chart revealed in 2015, the millennial generation.

Whereas I see every church, organization, business, and other entities reaching out to that generation with varying success, I place our future not on our reaching the generation of millennial but to the generation of their children, that unnamed generation. By drawing in their children we will raise up a generation that will love and commit to a working vision, keeping the ministries alive for generations to come. We have a few examples in our congregation today who gives witness and testimony to this fact each and every week of the year, in some fashion or another.

So, with that being said, let us re-commit ourselves to this ministry of invitation to get souls in the door and people in the pews. Let us focus on programs that will draw and sustain the children of our future. We will trust the spirit of God to move as God will once they are here. Please don’t make excuses for people before you even invite them. My invitation usually says something like, “there are 52 Sundays in a year…pick one.” You may use that quote or a variation of it, or come up with your own special invitation that leave it open for the person to choose when they will respond to the invitation.

With that, I that thank each of you for your faithful commitment to this ministry as we celebrate yet another year victory in Christ. Be encouraged, as God is not finished with us yet.

May God’s richest blessings surround you and all that you love in this year ahead.

Lovingly submitted;

Pastor Patrick Keen

**Membership Graph 2015**

**REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

by Wendy Enockson

Dear Members of OSLC,

It has been my pleasure to serve as the president of this congregation for the past two years. While I have been a member of this congregation since my baptism, this experience has given me the opportunity to get to know many of you even better! Our Savior’s is truly blessed by all of you.

2017 was a busy year for Our Savior’s! One filled with many changes. Most of the goals leadership set for the *Renew, Rejoice! Project* have been completed. Several are in the works. Some are still evolving. (Please read the *Renew, Rejoice! Project* report for details and also an overview of goals for 2018). Leadership has worked enthusiastically and tirelessly to accomplish these goals. My sincerest thanks to you all!

The 2017 Stewardship appeal followed the Stewardship for All Seasons model. This was a different approach than we have used previously. Though the results were positive—nearly everyone increased their pledge, it did not cover the shortfall created by the loss of members over recent years. We continue to be financially dependent on the foundation. This is not a sustainable strategy. Because it is important to be good stewards of our resources and to shift to a mission driven budget, leadership will explore all available options to improve its financial status.

Our Savior’s is celebrating 160 years of ministry this year. That is quite a milestone. What better way to celebrate than to focus our efforts on the future? 2018 will be a pivotal year. One with many opportunities and challenges. I am excited for the future when I see more children in Sunday school, new face participating in worship and leading initiatives. Do you feel it too? I hope you will discern how you will be a part of Our Savior’s next 160 years.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy Enockson

**Renew, Rejoice! Project Report**

As the calendar comes to a close, we recognize the progress being made on our strategic plan. We have been richly blessed by the hard work of OSLC members who have accomplished so much this year! Thanks to all who have helped:

¨ The Archive Committee (Tim Larson, Sue Miklautsch, Joan Totten, Lolita Lukach, Dick & Marion Gielow) has gathered, sorted and cataloged historic church records and artifacts. Lolita led the way on cataloging the artwork in the building, Dick and Marion have organized and cataloged 1300 titles of choral music, Sue is working on a scrapbook of our stained glass windows, Joan has organized the Faith Story Project and Tim has organized and cataloged minutes and other important documents as well as books, photos, cassette tapes, films and videos. You can view many of the items in the History Room (located in the Narthex). The team also hosted the 2017 Doors Open MKE for Our Savior’s and enjoyed interacting with the visitors, telling them the story of our church.

¨ The Education Committee (Julie Carr, Cyndi Benner, Paula Holman with Wendy Enockson and Pastor Keen) have organized small groups, set up the Advent Bible study, brought our young people together for Sunday School, ran a week of Vacation Bible School (Paul Schneble, Gail Jacobsen and others also helped with VBS), Learning and teaching are on the Discipleship Path, one of our Growth Engines in the plan. Having Christian education for our kids is one objective in our Family Ministry growth engine.

¨ The Worship Committee (Pastor Keen, John Seboldt, Penny Schwid, Bob Foley, Paul Brynildson, Julie Carr) is working on the Sunday Morning Experience, making the new schedule for Sundays and planning services to attract new people to worship at Our Savior’s. Stay tuned for a new service that the committee plans to roll out soon.

¨ The Space Team (part of Sunday Morning Experience) has spruced up the office lobby, cleaned many spaces in the building and removed old, outdated and unused items. Watch for the new childrens’ space and a guest services spot where visitors can learn about the congregation.

¨ The Heart of Milwaukee strategies are beginning to take shape, including a more integrated Wednesday Prayer Service. Pastor Keen is baptizing and collecting offerings from those who gather here on Wednesdays. We have a Memorandum of Understanding document now that defines our relationship with Central City Churches. The 160th Anniversary Committee is working on planning some Heart of MKE events for 2018.

**Renew, Rejoice! Project Goals for 2018**

**Growth Engines**

1. **Sunday Morning Experience (includes Space Team and Guest Services) Goals:**
2. Draft a worship service that will appeal to the target group (Worship/Pastor Keen) January 2018
3. Phase 2 of signage –interior. (Space Team) Winter 2018
4. Refresh Narthex and add welcome area (Space Team & Guest Services) end of January 2018
5. Refresh Conference rooms (Space Team) by Easter 2018 [paint office—2018]
6. Create space for children In sanctuary (Space Team)
7. Schedule annual greeter training for 2018 (Guest Services)

***Budget: $3000***

1. **Discipleship Path Goals:**
2. Create visual for Discipleship Path (Pastor Keen)
3. Find a leader for this growth engine—possibly diakonia grad or retired pastor
4. Develop an “invite strategy”
5. Develop on-ramps for serving

***Budget: $500***

**3. MKE Goals:**

1. Recruit team members to further develop this growth engine
2. Tell “our story”
3. Strategize with existing partners to promote the well-being of the community
4. Events: February –Opera on Tap, March—Food Trucks, April or TBD—Blessing of Bikes,

May—Vet’s Place Central Musicians Show/ Concordia Night, June—Music Under the Stars (Pride Fest),

July—Maker’s Fair, August—Health Fair/Street Fair/Info Expo, September—Neighborhood Bike Ride,

October—Trunk or Treat, Pig roast/BBQ, November--, December—Movie Night

***Budget: $4500***

**4. Family Ministry Goals:**

1. Work with Space Team to determine and develop clean space for nursery & kids

**Other Initiatives**

**Marketing and Communications Goals:**

1. Seek a professional photographer or digital camera to document activities

2. Continue building website

3. Recruit new team leader

4. Complete: Foundation Brochure (March 2018), Welcome/visitor “pew” card (April 2018),

160th Collaterals (April 2018), Newsletter Refresh (June 2018), Bulletin Refresh (September 2018)

***Budget: $1300***

**Archive Team Goals:**

1. 160th Anniversary Materials (January 2018)

2. Transfer of “old” media to “new” (January 2018)

***Budget $900***

**REPORT OF THE TREASURER**

by Frank Schultz

I'd like to update the Congregation on our financial situation for Fiscal 2017 and present a proposed budget for Fiscal 2018 for the Congregation's review and action.

**Income**

FY 2017 continued our pattern of declining income and steady or slightly increasing expenses. Total Income for FY 2017 was almost $253K, while our expenses were a little more than $363K. In order to balance our books we have asked the OSLC Foundation for around $110K. About half of that amount has already been granted and transferred to the Congregation.

We were not able to reach the amount we budgeted for 2017 Plan for Giving (almost $148K received to $170K budgeted). That said, we did see increases in Plan for Giving (PfG) for many families and individuals in the Congregation and the total for 2017 PfG was above the amount pledged by the Congregation.

Income from Basket Offerings was significantly over what we had budgeted for 2017 ($6,801 received to $4,200 budgeted).

Offerings at the Wednesday Prayer Services/Lunches were up to almost $3,000 this year.

The Grants that we received were about $2,000 above our Budget and contributions for Special Events were a little more than $2,000 over Budget.

In addition, we received over $4K in contributions to our Renew/Rejoice Campaign that was not anticipated in the FY 2017 Budget.

**Expenses**

We had some expenses that were lower than what was budgeted for 2017. Building & Grounds expenses were about $10K below Budget, Business Administration was about $7K below Budget, and several of our ministry areas were slightly below Budget. Staff costs were also lower than budgeted, mainly because we had vacancies in some of our positions during the year. So we've seen some good news with regard to last year's finances, but It was not enough to off-set the continued expenses for maintaining our building and ministering to the needs of our community.

The proposed 2018 Budget estimates that our expenses will exceed income by almost $165K. A deficit of this size is certainly troubling to me, and I'm sure many of you. If accurate, it would also cut into the Foundation's investments that generate income for OSLC, possibly increasing deficits in future years. We continue on a very slippery financial slope. We need your continued support, your time and talents, your ideas for ways to improve membership and finances, and your prayers!

**MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS**

**REPORT OF THE WORSHIP TEAM**

by Penny Schwid

Pastor Keen provides leadership for the Worship Team and, with John Seboldt, plans the weekly Sunday services. The biggest change this year was in the worship schedule. We held one service at 10:00 a.m. for the summer months and continued that schedule to the end of the year. So, in 2017 January – May we had Sunday services at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. From June to December, there was one service on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. We also held a Wednesday Prayer Service at 12 noon throughout the year.

The format of the 10:00 a.m. Sunday service includes 1 or 2 Gathering Songs at the beginning of the service, the planned liturgical music (Hymn of Praise, Gospel Acclamation, Holy Communion), appropriate hymns, readings for the day, and Holy Communion.

The worship leaders are dedicated, serving as Assisting Ministers, Readers, Communion Servers, Ushers, Gift Bearers, Sound Room and Sacristy workers. New worship leaders are always invited and welcome; several new worship leaders were added to the roster this year; for this we are most grateful.

John Seboldt continues to lead the choir in addition to playing the organ and piano for the service. The choir blesses us with music 3 Sundays a month. Rehearsals are three Sundays a month at 9:20 a.m. All singers are welcome. (Contact John or the church office for the latest choir schedule.)

Pastor Keen leads the weekly Wednesday Prayer services in word and music and prayer, with the support of pianist Isaiah Adams. Pastor Keen’s gift for music is an inspiration and blessing as he leads in the singing each Sunday and in between Sundays, too.

The Worship Team is charged with designing and planning a new worship service in 2018 to attract new people. Stay tuned for news about this.

**REPORT OF THE YARN MINISTRY TEAM**

Kari Ziemienski and Julie Carr, Chairpersons

2017 was a good year for Yarn Ministry and also brought some sadness, as prolific prayer shawl creator, Jenine Wimmer, passed. Her family blessed the church with many of her shawls and afghans to distribute to those in need. We are grateful that we were able to visit Jenine and knit and crochet together at her house this year when she was still feeling pretty good. In addition to our projects and making prayer shawls, we challenged ourselves to make winter gear for the Our Savior’s Mitten Tree. Our Mitten, Hat and Scarf challenge was a huge success! A big thank you to all who donated! We continue to meet the first Saturday of the month at The Brumder Mansion (31st and Wisconsin) at 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon. All are invited, regardless of your skill level.

**Report of the Archive Team**

by Timothy Larson

Joan Totten and Tim Larson, Co-Chairs

Members: Dick Gielow Marian Gielow

Karen Nimz Sue Miklautsch

Lolita Lukach

***Purpose of the Archive Team***

The purpose of the Archive Team is to celebrate the legacy and heritage of Our Savior’s Lutheran Church. We do this through preserving the congregation’s historical artifacts, important documents and life stories of its members. We seek to inform and educate members and friends of the rich spiritual and cultural influence this congregation has had locally and nationally and to provide an opportunity for individuals and the community to engage with our past, present and future to strengthen and inspire their faith for today and tomorrow.

***Achievements of 2017***

1. Organized and cataloged over 40 historic books; worship books, Bibles, catechisms, and books by pastors, etc.
2. Organized 100+ historic photos of the life of Our Savior’s
3. Organized and collected over 35 VHS videos and other historic media of choir concerts, Sunday school programs, guest speakers and special events of Our Savior’s.
4. Transferred old media (film) to new, current media (flash drive) the 1950’s groundbreaking and building of the Wisconsin Avenue church, the new church dedication service, the 1976 Christmas Eve service, and the 10th American Lutheran Church Anniversary Pentecost Concert LP
5. Organized over 150 cassettes of worship services, sermons, and special events
6. Inventoried and catalogued over 80 pieces of artwork throughout the Our Savior’s campus
7. Organized and catalogued council and committee meeting minutes from 1880’s-2017
8. Gathered over 20 “Faith Stories” from current and former members which are shared in the monthly Messenger newsletter and will be documented in the Archives.
9. Inventoried and organized over 1300 pieces of sheet music in the music library
10. Organized and hosted the 2017 Doors Open MKE event on September 23 and 24, with over 200 visitors.

***Goals for 2018***

1. Collaborate with the Our Savior’s Foundation Board to review and organize archival documents
2. Explore the possibility of creating a YouTube Channel to make public the archival media

**REPORT OF THE EDUCATION TEAM**

by Cyndi Benner

As many of you know we restarted our Sunday School program last year. We are very pleased to announce that we have had a large increase in the number of students in the past year and some exciting things are happening. Last fall we began dismissing the children from the service after a children’s message so that it is easier for parents since we have moved to one service. The students seem to like the arrangements and are able to return to church in time to receive communion.

Last summer a successful VBS was held here at OSLC and again we were very fortunate to receive a grant from The Siebert Foundation. Our theme continued to be “Meeting Jesus in the City” and this year we focused on environmental topics with creation story being the basis of the program. The children were able to visit the Milwaukee Water Works, the recycling plant, Alice’s Garden and two parks to learn about caring for our earth. It was well attended and the education committee would like to thank all those who volunteered their time to make the program happen.

**REPORT OF THE BUILDING AND GROUNDS TEAM**

LaVonne Williams, Chairperson

by Penny Schwid

The Building and Grounds Team has accomplished some new projects this year and has kept up with the building and grounds maintenance. We are so grateful for the dedication of Building and Grounds Chairperson, LaVonne Williams and the long service of Jerry Williams to care for this church.

We thank all of the Our Savior’s members who have come out for clean-up days to rake, plant, trim and pick up trash. We are also thankful for everyone who helped with decorating the church for the various seasons. Special thanks to Larry Prochnow for providing the trees at Christmas again this year and all the helpers who were involved, including Phil Enockson and Norma Fogle and also the “de-decorators”, including Steve Oakland, Mike McLean, and Frank Schultz. We are also grateful for the custodial staff members, Bennie Thompson and Steve Stauss who have helped with general cleaning, maintenance, and special projects. Additional projects were carried out by the “Space Team”, Phil and Wendy Enockson, Cyndi Benner. You have already noticed their work in the office lobby, with fresh new paint, art and bulletin boards. They were also able to replace and add outdoor signage to improve our look and our communication. Stay tuned for more sprucing up from this group.

This year we have been transitioning our facilities management responsibilities to a part-time, paid staff member. For many years we have relied on Jerry Williams and his skills and experience from the workplace to take care of the building, the grounds and heating plant etc. at Our Savior’s. We have not been able, on our own, to hire a qualified individual to take Jerry’s place. A unique opportunity was offered by Neighborhood House early in the year, asking if there was an organization in the neighborhood interested in sharing a facilities manager position. We stepped up to the invitation. Our first hire didn’t work out for either organization, so we started again in the fall and were able to hire our present Facilities Manager, Alex Letser. Alex comes with many years of experience in maintaining a large plant. So far he has been able to make some long-delayed repairs and oversee the work necessary for our heating system. If you have been cold in church this winter, stay tuned – I think we are getting close to a solution. Alex likes to see things working as they were intended. For instance, water is now again available at the bubbler outside the Outreach Ministry Center (a.k.a. The Fireside Room) in the basement!

Another employment opportunity was presented when Steve Stauss’ time with Central City Churches came to an end (due to a job placement arrangement contract) and the church took him on in order to extend his time here. Steve has done a great job for us; he is a good problem-solver, painter, and can take on minor repairs with ease. He has learned to manage the work with modifications for a disability and is looking forward to continuing with the church on a part time schedule.

There are projects on the horizon for 2018 that will involve the staff and Building and Grounds and Space Team volunteers working together. You are always invited to help. Contact B&G Chair LaVonne Williams, Penny in the church office, Wendy Enockson, or Pastor Keen to find out more.

**RENEW REJOICE Team Reports**

**Sunday Morning Experience**

**“Space Team”**

Submitted by Cyndi Benner

Since our last annual meeting the Space Team has been very busy implementing the action steps we created. The first thing that was accomplished was that last summer a training was held for people interested in being greeters for the church on Sunday morning. The training was well attended and many of many of the attendees have become regular Sunday morning greeters. Anyone who is interested should contact Cyndi Benner or Julie Carr.

Many areas of the church including the narthex, lobby, old nursery and the conference have been decluttered and a number of unused and musical instruments were disposed of. I am sure everyone has noticed the beautiful new paint job and remodeling in the lobby and adjacent powder room. We are continuing to create a children’s area in the narthex so that parents are able to remove children if necessary without feeling completely removed from the service.

New signs were purchased installed on the outside of the church to so that it is easier for the visitors to enjoy their experience here at Our Savior’s.

There are many other projects in the works so please stay tuned!

**Marketing & Communication Committee Update**

Submitted by Tim Larson, Chair

Members: Wendy Enockson Penny Schwid

Danielle McLean Pastor Patrick Keen

***Purpose of the Marketing & Communications Team***

The purpose of the Marketing & Communications Team is to create intentional communications that *invite, inform, include, instruct and inspire* our community and congregation to become engaged followers of Jesus Christ and to share God’s love with others.

***Achievements of 2017***

1. Designed and launched a new website ([www.oslcmke.org](http://www.oslcmke.org))
2. Created new logo, letterhead and business cards
3. Created a new welcome folder for guests and visitors
4. Created and wrote a value proposition/case statement for Our Savior’s highlighting its current purpose and mission in light of the strategic plan
5. Collaborated with the Stewardship Committee in creating marketing materials for the 2017 Renew Rejoice! Stewardship campaign

***Goals for 2018***

1. Design and create external marketing campaigns to welcome the community to Our Savior’s (invitation cards, postcards, door hangers, etc.)
2. Update visitor welcome card in pew
3. Review and recommend enhancements to current member and guest communications
4. Collaborate with the Stewardship Committee on the 2018 Stewardship Campaign
5. Collaborate with the Archive Committee to explore the possibility of creating a YouTube Channel to make public the archival media

**REPORT OF OUR SAVIOR’S FOUNDATION, INC.**

by Paula Holman, President

Greetings from your Foundation Board, Linda Brown, Chuck Formoe, Kris McLean, Vivian Watkins and Paula Holman. Paul Brynildson continues to serve as an ad hoc member and Treasurer.

Throughout its history the Foundation has supported religious, educational and charitable activities for the benefit of Our Savior’s Lutheran Church. The Foundation usually meets at least 6 times per year on the odd numbered months.

The initial intent and role of the Foundation was to provide funding for special ministries and new programs. Thanks to strong support from our church members and some sage investments, the Foundation was able to build up assets which are serving us well in these leaner times. As the financial needs of the church have changed over the years, the Foundation has been blessed to be able to support the ongoing work of Our Savior’s.

The Foundation ended 2016 with assets (including a checking account, investments in the stock market and cemetery plots) totaling approximately $580,000. In 2017 we received about $17,500 in dividends and distributions from our investments as well as $1,250 from memorials and gifts.

This year, the Foundation was able to address shortfalls in the 2015, 2016 and 2017 church budgets with payouts of approximately $117,000. We anticipate a request from the council for another $50,000 to assist with 2017 deficits. We are committed to continue to carefully steward the assets that we have and we look to the congregation for new gifts and bequests in the coming year.

Our Savior’s Foundation Board is excited to be able to support the work of Renew and Rejoice in 2018. We are grateful for the work that was done to update the Foundation Page of the new church website. It is a privilege to be able to serve on the Board of the Foundation and I want to thank my fellow Board members for their service in 2017. olman

**MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS 2017**

**Baptized Confirmed**

MEMBERSHIP – December 31, 2016 **214 172**

ACCESSIONS in 2017

1. By Baptism/children 2 0
2. By Baptism/adults 1 0
3. By Affirmation of Faith 4 0
4. By Transfer from other ELCA congregations 0 0
5. By Transfer from other Lutheran congregations - 0 0
6. From Non-Lutheran congregations - 0 0
7. Statistical Adjustment & Other\* 0 0

TOTAL ACCESSIONS 7 0

*subtotals* 221 172

Baptized members confirmed in 2017 0

Total confirmed 172

Total baptized 221

LOSSES

1. By Death 4 4
2. By Transfer to other ELCA congregations 3 2
3. By Transfer to other Lutheran congregations 0 0
4. By Transfer to Non-Lutheran congregations 1 1
5. Statistical adjustment and other reasons 31\* 12\*

TOTAL LOSSES 39 19

**MEMBERSHIP – December 31, 2017 182 151**

**New Members Received**

Scott & Sharina (French) Rauch Affirmation of Faith January 29

Sidney Hill Affirmation of Faith January 29

Bennie Thompson Affirmation of Faith January 29

**Baptisms**

Spencer Jackson January 29

Collin John Schwid March 12

Ma’rinity Eddie April 16

**Deaths**

Floyd Haberman March 14

Charlotte Goeckermann June 13

Jenine Wimmer September 10

Gladys Heinemann December 7

**Transfers**

Dale, Tori & Gunnar Saunders to Grace Lutheran, ELCA, Grafton

Charles Ott to assisted living faith community

Cáceres, Abe & Mila Moved (changed membership status to “Friends of Our Savior’s”)

**Discontinued Membership**

Kristi Westcott family

\*Statistical Adjustments - LOSSES = removed inactives, addresses unknown etc.