

HAND IN HAND

Stories of Our Savior's



**Annual Report to
the Congregation
for 2017**

Mission Our Savior's is a people forgiven in Christ whose mission is to proclaim Christ and nurture faith that connects with everyday life. Our beliefs and mission shape our values and our values shape how we live. OSL has five Core Values: Worship, Service, Learning, Generosity, and Community.

Worship Because worship is central to who we are, we provide a variety of worship experiences in which the Gospel is shared through word and sacraments.

Service Because we are called to love all people, we encourage, equip, and provide opportunities to serve and reach out to all with God's love.

Learning Because growth in faith is a lifelong endeavor, we provide, promote, and facilitate learning for Christian faith and living.

Generosity Because we are created in the image of God, the giver of all things, we challenge and encourage one another and ourselves as a congregation to be faithful and generous stewards of the time, talent, and financial resources God entrusts to us.

Community Because we share "one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all" (Ephesians 4:5), we cherish opportunities to build up the one body of Christ through fellowship, learning, service, and worship together.



From the President and the Senior Pastor

Our Savior's is called to serve its mission of proclaiming Christ and nurturing faith that connects with everyday life. The impact we make as we live out this mission is felt near and far. The stories you find in this report are representative of the amazing life-giving work that OSL has been engaged in throughout 2017. *Hand in Hand*, we have accomplished a great deal and known God's faithfulness:

- By including more interactive elements, using space and lighting creatively, and utilizing video more extensively, we have created engaging worship experiences for all who are drawn to worship here, both onsite and via television and the internet;
- More people are hearing the Good News of Jesus because of the mission partners we support financially: Table of Grace, WestSide, Pueblo de Dios, and Church on the Street;
- We have opened our doors to over 850 outside groups and events so that the facility with which God has gifted us is serving the local community rather than sitting idle;
- We have met the Phase I goal of Mission Possible, reducing our mortgage in half by the time we celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Reformation; and,
- By focusing strategically on Engagement and Community, we have broadened our Milestones ministry and provided leadership training for our youth; hosted a Christian comedy event and Theology Tapped in an attempt to reach those who have no church home; actively pursued a mutual relationship with our neighbors on the Rosebud Reservation; scheduled cross-generational and other community-building opportunities throughout the year; and worked to develop our small-group ministry (LifeGroups).

Of course, there is more that we are called to do: 2018 will be a year when we turn our focus to those things that will help grow the church. We invite you to partner with us as we endeavor to:

- Continue to reach out to those who have no church home and invite them to join us in mission;
- Continue to develop our small-group ministry (LifeGroups) in which OSL members and friends go deeper in their faith through study, prayer, service, and support in a group of 8 to 12 people;
- Create an enhanced understanding of "membership" that helps members see themselves as active partners in OSL's mission and ministry;
- Continue to improve our website and television ministries as invitational tools;
- Identify and follow-up with worship visitors more assertively;
- Recruit new members and integrate them into our ministry more intentionally.
- Grow the church beyond OSL through meaningful support of our mission partners.

Your enthusiastic support of this important work will be critical to OSL's continued health and vitality. Join us as we walk *Hand in Hand* into the future God will provide.

Grateful for your partnership,

Anne Rieck McFarland
Congregational President

Randall E. Gehring
Senior Pastor

Hand in Hand: With Our Neighbors

Strategic Initiative: Engagement, Focus #4 – Service to Our Neighbor

We understand that our mission of proclamation and nurturing faith is carried out in word and deed. When we serve the least among us, we have not only proclaimed God's love through our actions but it is as though we have served Christ himself. (Matthew 25)

Summer Food Service Program

It wasn't until Karla Johnson of EmBe, our meal sponsor, shared her final report that I realized the real impact of OSL's participation in the Summer Food Service Program in our first year.

- 253 kids per day
- 8,118 meals served

Every weekday, June through mid-August, from 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M., children from Sioux Falls, Harrisburg, and Crooks came to OSL for a healthy meal, in place of the one they would normally receive at school. These children included some from our congregation, some from our neighborhood, and many who were part of EmBe's Summer Care Camp.

While the children were here, they received a free meal and filled their downtime with games, coloring sheets, and math and reading activity sheets to keep their minds sharp during the summer months.

When I think about the impact of this program, I think about the positive experience each of those kids had in our building. I think about the families that shared a meal together. And I think about the young boy who expressed gratitude for the one complete meal he could count on that day.

None of this would have been possible, however, without the steady leadership and initiative of OSL volunteers Joel Ziebarth, Priscilla Jorve, Bob Nelson, and Brenda Vehle, who stepped up, not knowing exactly what they were in for; and staff support from Melissa Nesdaahl, Barb Haugan, Loretta Nelson, and Duresa Kabato.

I look forward to growing this program in future years after this solid start. I see opportunity to grow participation among those living in our neighborhood, to improve the programming we offer the kids after their meal, and to involve their parents, and I'm also looking forward to potential partnership with those participating in the Hezekiah House project.

Thank you for your support of this new outreach ministry to our neighborhood.

Pr. Sami Johnson





Statistics

Membership

Baptized

2016.....3,622

2017.....3,581

Confirmed

2016.....3,300

2017.....3,276

Sunday/Wednesday School Enrollment

2016.....272

2017.....275

Ministerial Acts

Baptisms

2016.....57

2017.....35

Confirmations

2016.....39

2017.....28

Weddings

2016.....13

2017.....9

Funerals.....

2016.....44

2017.....47

Ordinations

2016.....0

2017.....0

Average Weekly Attendance

2016.....894

2017.....817

Hand in Hand: With Our Mission Partners

Strategic Initiative: Engagement, Focus #3 – Outreach Ministry

While our mission finds its natural point of focus on what takes place within the church facility, it also compels us to be the church beyond our walls, in our community and in the world, for the sake of the Good News.

Strategic Initiative: Community, Focus #1 – Developing a Culture that Builds Community

We will endeavor to lift up deepening our shared sense of community as a priority to the extent that every congregational event will give consideration to how it will help us grow in our relationships with each other.

Providing Support to Our Spanish-Speaking Neighbors

Faith, friendship, and comfort came together in multicultural community over the course of many weeks at OSLS Hope for Living with Illness or Cancer group last year. This connection was formed through Ayuda, one of OSLS's mission partners, which has the goal of building relationships between the Latino immigrant community and the broader community.

Alejandra, a Mexican woman living in Sioux Falls, was struggling with her 20-year-old son's cancer diagnosis. She found solace in this group, where she could open up and share her hopes and fears. Her son, Juan Carlos, lives and studies in Mexico. He came to visit her for a few weeks during his university's winter break and attended the group with his mom. He found strength in others' stories. Before he returned to Mexico, the group presented him with a prayer shawl, wrapped him in it, and prayed with him.

Connecting with this group was exactly what Alejandra and Juan Carlos needed at that moment in their lives. Their involvement with the group was mutually beneficial because the new attendees offered a different perspective to the regular group members. They brought smiles and laughter as they taught others in the group about their culture and language. One woman in the group came with a new Spanish question each week. Her husband assigned her a new word or phrase to learn and bring home to teach him. The group also learned about the tradition of celebrating Three Kings Day in Mexico, and Alejandra brought the traditional Rosca de Reyes (Kings' Ring) bread to share the celebration with the others (see picture).

It is heartwarming to see how impressions were formed on each other's hearts in the encounters that took place within this group. I have stayed in contact with Alejandra as she comes back and forth from Mexico, and she fondly remembers her friends from the group. Likewise, Our Savior's group members ask for updates on Alejandra and Juan Carlos and remember them in their prayers.

This story is a small glimpse of God's work that is being done through Our Savior's Lutheran Church and the connections that OSLS supports in its outreach missions.

Jennifer Lunder,
Ayuda Coordinator

Hand in Hand: With Youth and Families

Strategic Initiative: Engagement, Focus #2 – Youth and Family Ministry

Understanding that youth ministry is at its best when it is owned by the entire community of faith, we will strive to continue to develop and support a comprehensive ministry for/to/with children, youth, and their families.

Milestones Ministry

Over 200 individuals conversed around beautifully presented tables. Being passed among them was a sand-filled plate. In it, each inscribed a word or drawing of something for which they needed forgiveness before blotting it out in representation of God erasing our sins. The plate was then passed to the next with the words, “God’s forgiveness is for you.”

How does the church of one’s childhood impact the person one becomes? How do teachings heard over the years grow confidence, strengthen families, and inspire young ones to *choose* to be active in church now and in the future? These are the questions I’ve pondered as I’ve prayerfully considered the milestone ministry strategic goal.

OSL Children’s Milestone Ministry had a big year in 2017! In addition to our existing milestones, we added two new ones, including Welcome to Church for two-year-olds and Caring Conversations for kindergarteners. Two-year-olds and their parents engaged in a building-wide scavenger hunt, having their picture taken at each landmark, to familiarize them with OSL and receive the photos in a personalized hardcover book to read in their homes over and over again. In Caring Conversations, parents and kindergarteners worked together to create a conversation cube with questions about their school day, effectively bridging the gap between the student’s school day experience and parents’ awareness of it. With these additions, OSL Children’s Ministry now has a milestone celebration for every year of life from birth through fifth grade.

And it all connected in an evening of breaking bread together. Once the sand activity was complete and the meal was enjoyed, fifth-graders and their parents and sponsors created OSL’s first ever milestone memento ornament to remember whose they are. The ornaments were created by students walking through each milestone of their church life, at tables named for what was gained in each celebration, and engaging in an intergenerational discussion before adding a symbol to their ornament. By the end of the evening, families and sponsors had learned more about each other, students were energized by their peers’ sharing of their favorite Bible verse and stories, and each had a forever memento of a God who has continually drawn them in out of love.

Growing family relationships and constantly reminding students they are loved—this is how OSL Children’s Ministry is connecting faith to everyday life and creating an excited, vibrant congregation in the process.

Melissa Nesdaahl

In 2017...

About 880 people were served breakfast or dinner over the course of the year.

To serve OSL members and guests a breakfast of bacon, eggs, and roasted potatoes for Sunday breakfast required

- 20 pounds of bacon;
- 30 pounds of scrambled eggs;
- 20 pounds of diced potatoes.

Between 50,000 and 60,000 copies of bulletins (orders of service and announcements) were printed.

Visitation Ministers made 150 monthly visits.

270 meals were served at the Advent Fair.

OSL volunteers include—

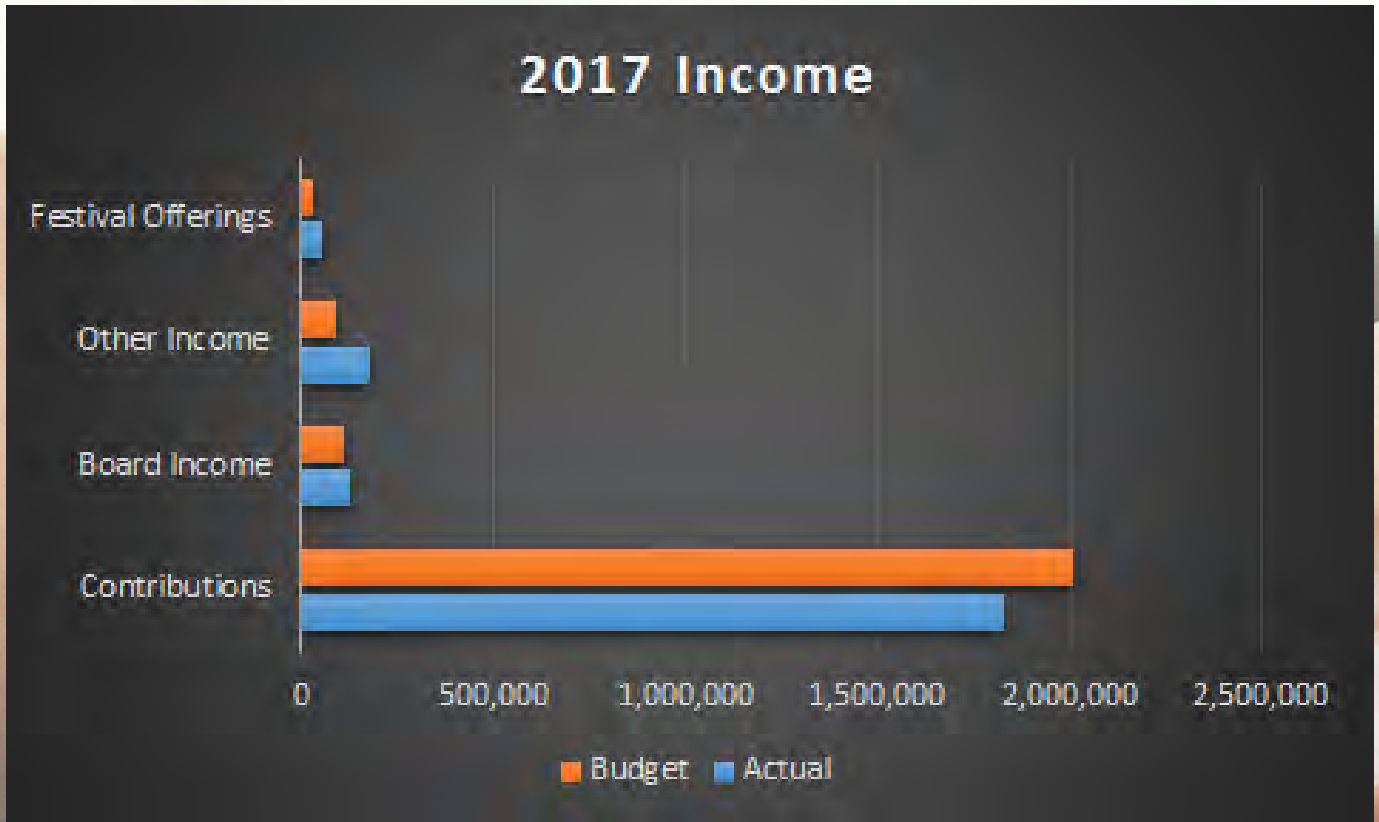
- 14 Caring Friends, who see OSL members in care facilities;
- 28 active Stephen Ministers
- 9 hospital visitors: five laypeople, one Faith Community Nurse, and three clergy.

More than 880 outside events took place at Our Savior’s.

Communion was served at five care facilities each month.

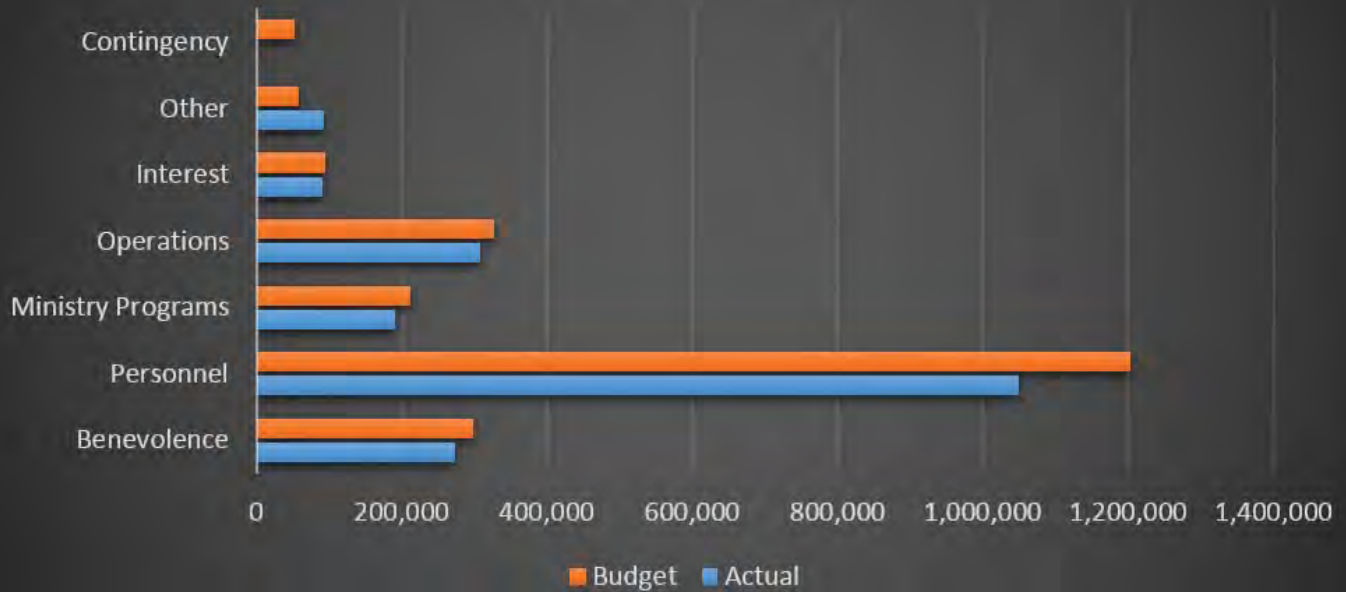
40-plus bereavement packets were sent.





Income	Actual	Budget	+/-
Contributions	1,826,747	2,008,616	(181,869)
Board Income	128,419	113,200	15,219
Other Income	93,463	88,100	94,738
Festival Offerings	51,279	35,000	16,279
Total	2,099,908	2,244,916	(144,998)

2017 Expenses



Expenses	Actual	Budget	+/-
Benevolence	274,062	298,000	(23,938)
Personnel	1,049,306	1,202,726	(153,420)
Ministry Programs	190,767	211,445	(20,678)
Operations	307,400	328,100	(20,700)
Interest	90,764	95,000	(4,236)
Other	56,430	58,000	35,490
Contingency	0	51,645	(51,645)
Total	1,968,729	2,244,916	(239,127)

Connecting Faith to Everyday Life.



OUR SAVIOR'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH