

Sharing

Joy!

The Story Continues



Annual Report to the Congregation for 2019

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.



Sharing the Joy of the Lord!

Dear Partners in Ministry:

This past year we were encouraged here at OSL to "share the joy of the Lord" as we lived out our identity as followers of Jesus and members of Our Savior's and it has been so cool to watch how each of you took that encouragement to heart and how that has made an impact in your life, your community, and the world.

Sharing Joy in 2019 – A Sample

- Supported three growing mission congregations in Sioux Falls: WestSide (northwest Sioux Falls), Pueblo de Dios (Spanish-speaking), and Church on the Street (ministry with unhoused neighbors).
- Helped develop Discharge with Dignity at local hospitals to provide basic necessities for neighbors who come from a distance for care.
- Welcomed 150 children to Vacation Bible School and supported them with nearly 75 energetic volunteers.
- Continued the work of nurturing relationships with our neighbors on the Rosebud Reservation while building several ramps for elders.
- Provided critical financial support for ELCA teaching missionary Elisabeth Johnson in Cameroon and scholarships to three seminary students.
- Supported some twenty other mission partners and shared the joy of the Lord through Lutheran Social Services, prison ministry, camping ministry, The Community Outreach, and more.
- Sponsored a growing OSL youth ministry that sent 47 kids on mission and faith immersions and routinely welcomes close to 50 high school students at Wednesday night youth group.
- Empowered 135 Caring Ministry volunteers to provide spiritual care in a variety of ways to our elders and homebound.
- Shared our vibrant worship life with folks around the world through two weekly television broadcasts and Facebook Live.
- Welcomed nearly 800 to the South Dakota Synod Assembly at OSL at which the Rev. Constanze Hagmaier was elected bishop.

It's been a great year—a really fun year of sharing the joy of the Lord—and we look forward to another year of together proclaiming Christ and nurturing faith that connects with everyday life.

Grateful for your partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan".

Dan Van Schepen
Congregational President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy".

Randall E. Gehring
Senior Pastor

The Blessings of Shared Ministry

Looking back upon another year of shared ministry, one cannot help but be thankful for the blessings we have of each other. Together we have ministered to members within our congregation, people within our community, and to our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the world in so many ways. We have so much to be thankful

claiming Christ and connecting faith with everyday life would not happen without you. Again, thank you for your partnership in ministry!

Through the years, I have often heard it said, as a lament by congregational leaders, **“If we could only find some volunteers to help us we could get so much more done.”** Comments like this always get me to thinking, and I found myself wondering about the truth of this sentiment again as we came to the close of another year. And I began to ask myself the question, **“Are we too short of volunteers to do the ministry God has called us to do?”** Sure, we could always use more help, but are we really short of volunteers to make ministry happen at OSL?

I decided to ask Deb Harlan, our Caring Ministries Coordinator, and Michelle Anderson, our Faith Community Nurse, to do a little research for me to find out just how many volunteers we *do* have on our Spiritual Care team here at OSL, and this is what we came up with:

Sharing Facts: Social Media

Facebook followers: 1,142
Twitter followers: 195
YouTube Channel subscribers: 78;
videos posted in 2019: 165

- Caring Friends: 18.
- Hospital Visitors: 5.
- Bereavement Ministry: 5.
- Quilters: 20.
- Knitters: 8.
- Footcare Clinic: 4.
- Stephen Ministers: 25.
- Dinner to Your Door: 15.
- Addiction Ministry Coordinator: 1.
- Spiritual Care Core Ministry Team Lay Member: 1.
- Memory Care Support Group: 5.
- Hope for Living with Illness Support: 6.
- Baby Bag Ministry: 6.
- Caregivers Conference Organizers: 6.
- Caring Ministries Library Upkeep: 2.
- Prayer Garden Workers: 8.

This short list of volunteers adds up to **135 partners in ministry!** This to us was an amazing reminder of the many volunteers that make our ministry possible! We are so

for, and we as OSL staff are particularly grateful for all of the volunteers who make our ministry possible. As partners working together, we carry out our core values of Worship, Service, Learning, Generosity, and Community in a variety of ways. We want you to know that our ministry of pro-

Sharing Facts: Kid Stuff

150 students attended VBS in 2019.
Cross+Gen Sundays averaged over 120 people.
Students age four through grade five tied and decorated 62 prayer pillows for Church on the Street.



blessed by the many faithful volunteers we do have, and this is just a list of those who help in the Spiritual Care ministry area.

When you stop to think about the many partners in ministry we have who teach Sunday and Wednesday School and Confirmation, who volunteer with Advent Fairs



and Vacation Bible School, who serve as ushers and communion ministers, who sing in choirs and play in our band... the list goes on and on! We are blessed beyond measure by all of you who **make ministry happen** here at OSL, and for that I say, **Thanks be to God for all of you!**

As we now look to a new year of ministry, we do so with grateful hearts and a renewed focus on what we can do together! Look around the church at all the ways we partner together in ministry, and look inside yourself too as you do. God has

given each of us gifts to use in the work of God's kingdom.

You too have gifts to share. How will you use your God-given gifts in ministry this year? It takes only a little of your time to make a big difference in our world, and when we put our

hearts and hands and voices together, there is nothing God can't do, through the ministry we share!

—Pr. Tim Lemme



A Night of Thanks

Once again, OSL Youth and Family Ministry had the pleasure of hosting our annual Volunteers of America Youth Center Thanksgiving Dinner. After years of the meal being served in the Bowden Center gym, and last year at First Lutheran, we were able to move the meal to a new home: The Gathering Place, right here at OSL.

This move allowed us to try some new things, such as improving the experience for VOA youth and the impact of the meal. As part of this process, we were able to connect with OSL Food Coordinator Debbie Theis, who was able to ensure that not only would the kids have a great meal but also

Sharing Facts: OSL Website

Jan. 1–Dec. 31, 2019—
Approximately 15,000 visitors.
Most visitors come in the “front door,”
i.e., oslchurch.com Home Page.
Most Popular Pages: Worship,
Bulletins and Announcements,
and Calendar.
A little more than half of all visitors
use a desktop computer; slightly
fewer use a phone or tablet.





were able to visit the VOA Youth Center a few days before the meal. We played 9-square, helped with homework, and did some crafting, and we reconnected with several kids we had met the year before. In addition to having a lot of fun, we also were able to talk to their amazing staff and make plans to return next semester, and

that we could prepare more meals with the same budget so we could also serve other groups in the community. We connected with Pr. Justin, who was able to invite families of our OSL mission partners, Hezekiah House and the Genesis Mentoring Program to expand our reach. Finally, we were able to connect with the St. Francis House, who agreed to take any extra meals so that everything prepared would make a difference somewhere in our community. So with all that, the stage was set for an amazing night of ministry.

As the week approached, the anticipation began to build as OSLS high school youth

work to find additional ways to support the great work they do for at-risk youth.

As the day arrived and the first of our 23 volunteers begin to fill The Gathering Place, there was an excitement in the air. We set the tables with fun Thanksgiving place-mats the kids could color, received final instructions from Debbie about serving the food, got turkey hats (which middle school youth had made with Trish Syverson) ready to hand out, and put on some Christmas music to set the mood. Before you knew it, The Gathering Place began to fill with the voices of almost 100 kids in turkey hats, eagerly waiting for their Thanksgiving feast. After a prayer of thanks and some instruction from Rob, the Director of the Youth Center, the meal began. As we served and visited with the kids, we were reminded how much it meant to them that people from a church in Sioux Falls would see them as a priority and that we would take the Friday night before Thanksgiving to make sure they knew they were valued and were loved. Many of them described this as their favorite meal of the year.

By 7:00 P.M., we had served 145 meals and were ready to conclude our night with the final part of our plan: it was time to pack

Sharing Facts: Statistics

Membership	
Baptized.....	3,548
Confirmed.....	3,313
Sunday School Enrollment.....	128
Wednesday School Enrollment ..	63
Confirmation Enrollment.....	76
Baptisms.....	35
Confirmations	27
Weddings.....	11
Funerals.....	41
Average Weekly Attendance	749

up all the remaining food and head to St. Francis House. With the meals in tow, we headed across town to drop off all that remained. When we arrived, St. Francis House staff shared how they needed food for the week and were excited to see what we had brought. To their amazement, we delivered over 60 meals, and it took a crew of six people to get it all inside! It was a final reminder of what an important ministry this VOA Thanksgiving dinner has been and how exciting it is to find ways to use our time, money, and talents not only to continue an amazing event but also to find ways to reach more people and find new ways to love our neighbors.

From the OSLS Youth and Family staff, we would like to thank Debbie, Pr. Justin, our amazing volunteers, our middle school and high school youth groups, and the entire congregation for all you do to make it possible to show the love of Christ during the holiday season and all year long.

—John Schomberg,
Director of Youth Ministry

Sharing Facts: Youth Notes

47 youth attended summer mission immersion trips.
High School Youth Group averaged 39 in the 2019–20 school year.
Over 55 high schoolers attended Wednesday night youth programming at least five times last fall.
The 2019 Silent Auction raised over \$13,000 for OSLS youth.

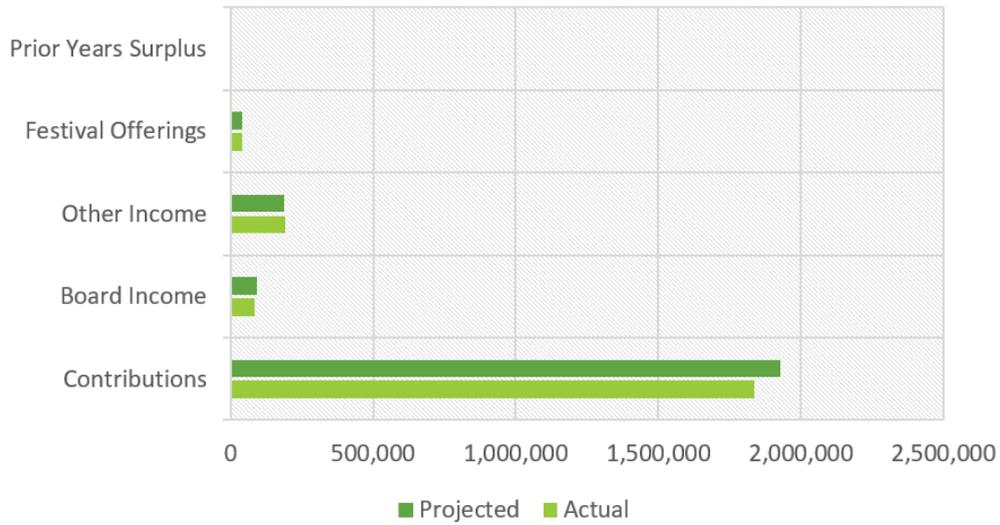
Sharing Joy: Income | Expenses

Income	Actual	Projected	+/-
Contributions	1,835,727	1,928,817	(93,090)
Board Income	83,533	93,940	(10,407)
Other Income	192,820	186,480	6,340
Festival Offerings	40,982	40,763	219
Prior Years Surplus	0		0
Total	2,153,062	2,250,000	(96,938)

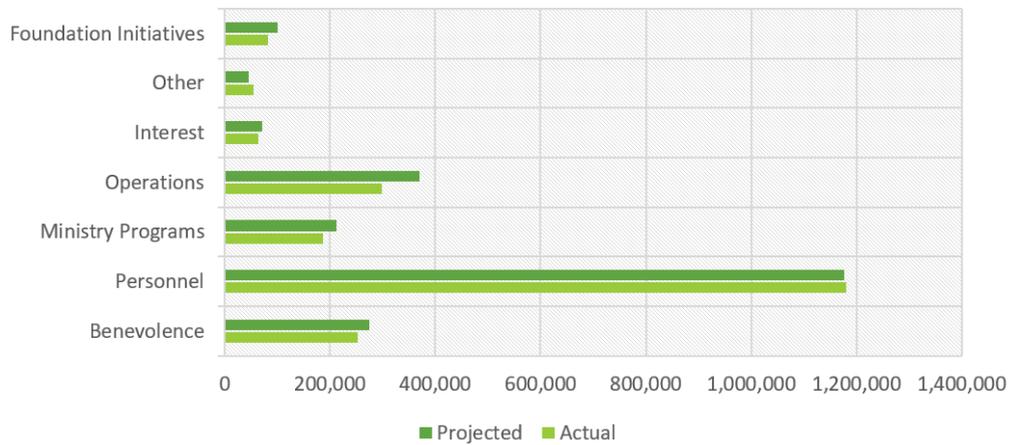
Expenses	Actual	Projected	+/-
Benevolence	252,997	275,000	(22,003)
Personnel	1,181,255	1,176,000	5,255
Ministry Programs	186,602	212,450	(25,848)
Operations	297,633	370,000	(72,367)
Interest	64,141	71,050	(6,909)
Other	55,481	45,500	9,981
Foundation Initiatives	81,388	100,000	(18,612)
Total	2,119,497	2,250,000	(130,503)

Surplus/(Deficit) 33,565

2019 Income



2019 Expenses



Connecting Faith to Everyday Life.

