

# **Our Savior Lutheran Church Council President's 2022 Annual Report**

## **James W. Snyder, President**

As President of OSLC's Council, it is my privilege to present the 2022 Annual Report. Within these pages, Council members have provided summaries highlighting the church's activities in their respective areas. These leaders, along with countless members of our congregation who serve on committees and volunteer their time and talents are and continue to be essential for carrying out our mission and vision year after year. I recommend that you visit the Church Website and review each of the departmental reports in greater detail.

2022 was a year of transition and getting back to focusing on the spiritual welfare and business of the Church and Day School following the disruptions created by the Covid Pandemic in the preceding two years. Under the leadership of Paul Darlage, the Board of Elders some of the more notable activities are: reinstated the "sharing of the peace" at the Sunday worship services which had been terminated during Covid; reviewed, revised and finalized the Constitution and By-Laws that were submitted to, and approved by the Council who in turn will seek the Congregation's approval next year (2023); established and defined the position of Teach, Love, Connect (TLC) coordinator and selected Corrine Burmeister to lead and coordinate the TLC program; appointed Steve Graef to serve as the Elder's Representative to the School Principal Call Committee.

I am pleased to report that OSLC's membership is growing at a steady pace with several younger families becoming members. As Pastor Cook once responded to a concern of children crying during the service, he said, "the crying indicates we are growing".

The 2023 budget approved by Council for recommendation to the congregation includes a modest increase in income. Although optimistic considering that income has decreased over the past two years, our Treasurer, Darren Doehrmann has taken great care in promoting the understanding of the many nuances of OSLC's financial statements and accounts including attention to dedicated account balances and ensuring that we have a balanced budget as required by the By-Laws. Be advised that the Council actively participated in the development of the budget, and I encourage you to reach out to the Treasurer and Council Members with any questions regarding the budget, our process, or any other Council activities. One significant action was the elimination of the Capital Campaign program which will become a budgeted item. For example, the organ requires major updating and repair; estimates are being obtained from vendors that will be followed by inclusion of the cost as a budgeted item. However, this does not preclude individual members who wish to donate to the organ repair program.

The school continued to sustain a high quality of education despite some challenges, but it persevered and ended the year on a positive note. It mourned the sudden loss of Luther Oberhaus who lovingly served as a substitute teacher and was a strong supporter of the school. Due to inclement weather, the annual Round Ball Classic Basketball tournament was not able to be completed. Jack Hiegel announced his retirement at the end of the school year and April saw

an increase in COVID among students and faculty, but the school was successful in maintaining operations. On a more positive note, the school was reaccredited by the National Lutheran School Accreditation program; graduation was held for the eighth-grade class and the school ended the year with 128 students which was more than budgeted. Mrs Alyssa Paquin was added as a new faculty member in August and Ms Hannah Price was added to assist with after-school care and the Preschool classroom. The school's biggest challenge will be to find a replacement for Mr. Wrucke who will be retiring as principal following the end of 2023 school year. Mrs. Lehenbauer Mrs. Rachel Sallaberry also announced that they will not be returning.

Parish Education, under the leadership of Sarah Fredrickson Arnold, was extremely active in meeting their departmental responsibilities related to all areas of education and discipleship which consisted of adult education, youth and small groups, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Men's and Women's ministry, and family and senior ministry. OSLC was represented and participated in the National Youth Gathering in which 13 youths and 4 adults attended.

Chip Davidson, Chair of Worship and Music highlighted the loss of Luther and Cindy Oberhaus both of whom were significant contributors to the Worship and Music program. As many of our members know, there is no question that Luther's greatest legacy is the Messiah Sing-Along. The Lord has blessed us with Matthew Lane who will continue this rich and cherished program. After many decades of serving OSLC in the capacity of organist, Dr. Earnie Oblander retired and his talent will be missed but we are grateful for his contributions. Additionally, more members of OSLC are joining in the work of the music and worship ministry which includes, numerous special musical offerings by the choir and praise team during early and late services, the return of the live children's choir performances at both services, the continued streaming of services through social media platforms and the addition of numerous members to serve as readers, projectionist, and worship assistants. The missional goals of the department remain: teaching, loving, and connecting.

We are thankful for Matt Hesse, Chair of Building and Grounds. Matt and his team have been instrumental in maintaining the infrastructure of our facility both internally and externally. Of the numerous activities completed during the year, the major highlight was the installation of new and upgraded lighting in the church parking lot. The next major project will be the installation of a new cooling tower. The monthly Saturday Workday involving many volunteer members has kept paced with the need for regular maintenance of the building. Other items of importance include improvements made to the church entrance, replacement of the drapes in the fellowship hall, the installation of a new water heater in the cafeteria, remodeling and painting of the men's restroom and repair and restoration of the women's restroom. Once the cooling tower has been installed plans have been made to reseal the parking lot.

Under the leadership of Donna Granderson, Christian Relations had a very active and productive year. A transportation ministry was formed to anyone in need of transportation to and from church; the between services coffee ministry continues to be successful and thanks to Shirly Kressin, the board received a Thrivent Action Team Grant to purchase, in response to an ending of donations, coffee, creamer, sugar, and other amenities provided in this program. Other sustaining activities include the Eastern Area Community Ministry (EACM) along with

collections of food and personal care items for EACM and Redeemer Lutheran Church. The Board also sponsored the Orphan Grain Train in their efforts to acquire used clothing. A phone call ministry was initiated with the objective to stay in touch with inactive members. In partnership with Chip Davidson, Pastor Cook, and Craig Hoffman, the board has been working on a pictorial directory which is near completion. Debbie and Sue Wolter are also recognized for their taking inventory of and organizing all disposable products. Donna states additional volunteers are needed to set up and clean up after both services in support of the coffee ministry. Last but certainly not least, we recognize and offer our thanks to Roma Pedneau and Tracy Hannon for ensuring that daily operations of the church and school respectively are sustained in a seamless manner.

Beverly Silletto and her Evangelism team enjoyed a productive year. Activities of note include serving Lenten and Advent meals prior to the respective services, conducted outreach through a letter campaign to the Hurstbourne neighborhood and visitors to our worship services, assisted on the Messiah Sing Along, and most notably, became involved in the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoebox ministry in which was accumulated 113 shoeboxes of gifts for children around the world, and continued the provision of having our sermons on the respective YouTube and Facebook links in support of shut-ins and those vacationing or simply not being able to attend church.

I especially want to acknowledge our Council Vice President, Dave Walls, for his unrelenting efforts to focus on the daily operations of the church, his professionalism in directing the church council meetings, and occasionally reminding the Council President to "stay in his lane".

The Lord has truly blessed OSLC in 2022 and we are thankful that he has led us in this direction. We thank him for his many blessings that have allowed OSLC to continue meeting its mission, Teach, Love, and Connect. We also thank the Lord for our leader, Pastor Joshua Cook and congratulate him on his being awarded a Doctorate Degree in Christian Preaching and Church History. It is a privilege to bear witness to the work and dedication of this congregation, its staff, and Council. I am honored to be a part of it and very thankful for our thoughtful and engaged members and leaders with whom we can serve, listen, adapt, and ultimately build the Church with faithful hearts and God's hand.

*For I know the plans I have for you, "declares the Lord", plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11*

Respectively submitted,

James W. Snyder