



**Our Saviour's**  
**LUTHERAN CHURCH**

*Rejoicing together!*

# ***2021 Annual Report to the Congregation***



*Photo by Mac McGoon Portrait Design Studio, Inc.*

**400 West Ninth Street  
Hastings, Minnesota 55033-2025  
(651) 437-9052  
[www.osel.org](http://www.osel.org)**



# **AGENDA**

## **ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING Our Saviour's Evangelical Lutheran Church Hastings, MN**

***January 30, 2022  
10:00 AM***

**President:** Cathy Shores - Presiding  
**Secretary:** Rod Risch

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Prayer - Pastor Lloyd Menke
3. Declaration of a Quorum - Cathy Shores
4. Nominating Committee Report & Election
5. 2021 Financial Report - Treasurer Jean Lodermeier
6. Old Business  
    Ratify changes to constitution—Shelly Rohr
7. New Business  
    2022 Ministry Spending Plan – Treasurer Jean Lodermeier  
  
    Endowment Committee—Greg Mikel
8. Election Results—Cathy Shores
9. Announcements—Cathy Shores/Pastor Lloyd Menke
10. Motion for Adjournment
11. Closing Prayer & Benediction – Pastor Joel Rova-Hegener

## OSEL OPERATING BUDGET

	2020 Budget	2021 Budget	2022 Proposed Budget
<b>MISSIONS/SERVING</b>	<b>\$17,000</b>	<b>\$15,500</b>	<b>\$13,000</b>
<b>PROGRAM MINISTRY</b>			
Small Groups	\$500	\$500	\$1,000
Family Ministries	\$500	\$500	\$1,000
Church School	\$9,450	\$8,000	\$8,700
Christian Education	\$6,700	\$5,500	\$7,600
Youth	\$8,300	\$8,000	\$9,500
Evangelism	\$14,000	\$18,000	\$15,000
Hospitality	\$6,000	\$5,000	\$4,000
Worship	\$8,000	\$45,000	\$40,000
Music	\$17,900	\$18,000	\$16,950
Stewardship	\$10,500	\$10,000	\$9,500
Pastoral Care	\$3,100	\$2,500	\$2,300
Conferences & Assemblies	\$6,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Finance/Audit	<u>\$5,000</u>	<u>\$8,000</u>	<u>\$5,000</u>
Total Program Ministry	<b>\$95,950</b>	<b>\$134,000</b>	<b>\$125,550</b>
<b>STAFF COMPENSATION</b>			
Total Compensation & Benefits	<b>\$802,850</b>	<b>\$787,500</b>	<b>\$920,950</b>
<b>OPERATIONS &amp; GROUNDS</b>			
Administration	\$44,500	\$40,000	\$35,000
Utilities	\$34,700	\$29,000	\$29,500
Facilities	\$25,000	\$175,000	\$50,000
Insurance	\$17,000	\$17,500	\$16,000
Operating Reserve	<u>\$10,000</u>	<u>\$10,000</u>	<u>\$10,000</u>
Total Operations & Grounds	<b>\$131,200</b>	<b>\$271,500</b>	<b>\$140,500</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,047,000</b>	<b>\$1,208,500</b>	<b>\$1,200,000</b>
	<b>+0.2%</b>	<b>+15.4%</b>	<b>-0.7%</b>

Senior Pastor.....Rev. Lloyd Menke  
 Associate Pastor.....Rev. Joel Rova-Hegener  
 Parish Nurse.....Sherri Lohmann  
 Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries.....Amy Hanson  
 Community Outreach & Events Coordinator.....Theresa Chatelle  
 Contemporary Music Coordinator.....Jason Craft  
 Director of Sacred Music.....Diane Pearson  
 Administrator.....Joyce Nelson  
 Communications Specialist .....Linda Gathright  
 Administrative Assistant .....Ann Traeder  
 Building & Maintenance Lead.....Thomas Walt  
 Custodian.....Paula Gillis  
 Child Care Coordinator..... Megan Vortherms  
 Kitchen Coordinator..... John Wakeen  
 Line Cook.....Ryan Hanson  
 Wedding Coordinators..... Amy Buechler, Lisa Bushburger  
 Chancel Choir Accompanist..... Linda Gathright  
 Choir Directors.....Kathy Hardy, Lin Warren, Blake Zak  
 New Creation Band..... Matt Blackford, Seth Duin, Nick Fox, Lonnie Menard, Paul Woog  
 WoW Service Band..... Mike Borash, Paul Woog, Blake Zak, Noah Zak

## **Church Council Officers**

**President**.....Cathy Shores  
**Vice President**.....Shelly Rohr  
**Secretary**.....Rod Risch  
**Treasurer**.....Jean Lodermeier

## **Church Council**

### **Council Members**

Tricia Agen  
 Heidi Lund  
 Ellen McCullough  
 Lori Mikel  
 Mark Sanstead

### **President's Committee**

Pat O'Connor  
 Cathy Shores  
 Shelly Rohr  
 Mark Sanstead



# STAFF REPORTS

**May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13 (NRSV)**

As we begin 2022, I am hopeful. Those who know me well know that I have never been a Pollyanna. Much in our world is not the way God intended it. There is too much suffering, illness, agony, and loss. In short, it is still a fallen and broken world. Sin is still present. But, my hope is not placed in the eradication of sin – or in a world that is “every day in every way getting better and better.” My hope is in the presence, power, mercy, and love shown to us in Jesus Christ. My hope in Christ has not failed me. I am also confident that it will not fail you personally, or fail us collectively as the body of Christ, the church.

As my sense of hope increases so does my gratefulness. There is so much to be thankful for. We, at Our Saviour’s are very blessed. You as a congregation have been a blessing to me. You have shown adaptability, resilience, tenacity, and faithfulness through all the changes that have come with the pandemic. I am grateful for your strong faith and dedication to God and each other as the body of Christ in this place. I am grateful for the many faithful, dedicated and gifted lay leaders who have provided strong leadership through the years. This year is no exception. We owe a debt of gratitude to those serving on the church council and the various committees for their tireless serving and adaptability through the pandemic. I am grateful for the leadership provided by the church council through this last year. Thank you to: Tricia Agen, Jean Lodermeier (Treasurer), Ellen McCullough, Lori Mikel, Heidi Lund, Rod Risch (Secretary), Shelly Rohr (Vice-President), Mark Sanstead (At-Large President’s), and Cathy Shores (President) for your dedicated service.

Special thanks is due to the members of the 150<sup>th</sup> committee for their work. This committee showed exceptional adaptability as it worked to plan celebration activities in the midst of all the changing circumstances of the pandemic. We had a wonderful outdoor celebration dinner, where we heard from former pastors and youth directors. There were also a number of community service projects and events held in honor of our 150<sup>th</sup>. In addition, the committee worked to raise the funding, and commission and install a sculpture as a commemoration of the 150 years of God coming to us, and lifting our spirits and songs in praise. Thank you to Ellen McCullough and Kristine Thompson co-chairs, and to Doug Differt, Ann Erickson, Stephanie Esperson, Sheri Fox, Lori Mikel, Kathleen O’Connor, Jerrie Pittenger, Dennis Nygaard, Virginia Nygaard, Cary Nygaard, Kari Smith for their work. Thanks also to Seth Duin for his work on the 150<sup>th</sup> video, and to Heidi Lund, Trevor Lund, and David Youngren for their work on the 150<sup>th</sup> booklet. Great work all!

The wonderful ministry of Our Saviour’s would not be strong and vibrant without the tireless work of the Our Saviour’s staff. The staff has demonstrated remarkable creativity, adaptability and perseverance throughout the pandemic. Pastor Joel is always eager to contribute and is faithful in sharing the gospel. Joyce Nelson contributes wonderful HR capabilities and conscientious work with the finances. Amy Hanson has done amazing work with our children, youth and families, not only in building relationships, but also in coordinating servant opportunities and trips, coordinating education volunteers, and developing teaching materials. Theresa Chatelle has found ways to recruit and assist volunteers to participate in community opportunities to help us be the heart, hands and feet of Christ in the community despite the limitations of the pandemic. Sherri Lohmann has brought years of medical experience and training as a nurse, and combined them with a caring presence to add a new dimension to our level of pastoral care. Ann Traeder has lent her capable hands to keeping church records and the church office running smoothly. Linda Gathright has been of great service in preparing bulletins, newsletters and keeping communications going, and has continued to share her musical talent. Tom Walt has been creative in finding

energy saving solutions through new LED lighting and energy audits. He has also helped reduce the cost of the HVAC upgrades by doing some of the work rather than the HVAC companies. Building and grounds maintenance can be a thankless but very important job. Thanks Tom & Paula Gillis for all you do. John Wakeen (Chef Johnny) was able to come back mid-year. His outstanding Wednesday meals continue to make Wednesday evenings a treat. Our Saviour's is blessed to have such a dedicated and talented staff!

Our Saviour's has long been known for exceptional music. Diane Pearson and Jason Craft have done much to continue that tradition, as have members of the New Creation Band (Matt Blackford, Seth Duin, Nick Fox, Lonnie Menard, and Paul Woog) and David Doll our sound engineer. Kathy Hardy has done a spectacular job finding ways to continue to enhance both online and in-person worship with the handbell choir. Erik Pearson has contributed much to both online and in-person worship in sharing his musical arrangements and worship planning for both in-person and online services. Thanks also to our Wednesday, REFRESH/WoW band (Mike Borash, Paul Woog, Blake Zak, and Noah Zak). We look forward to the day when it will be safe to bring back our chancel choir under the direction of Lin Warren. Thanks you to all volunteer soloist, accompanist, musicians who make Our Saviour's music great throughout the year both in-person and online. Finally, and certainly not least thanks to Seth Duin for his fantastic work recording and editing video for our online worship. What a joy it is to be part of a congregation with such rich, varied, and high quality music.

The theme for our 150<sup>th</sup> celebration was "Celebrating the Past, Embracing the Future." As we begin a new year it is important to not only celebrate and express gratitude for all who have contributed to the sharing of ministry in this last year, it is also important to take a moment to reflect on what embracing the future might hold for the coming year. Certainly, the pandemic has reminded us that plans and goals can be upset and may need to be somewhat altered. Nonetheless, there are several ideas that will be helpful for us to embrace this coming year.

In order to more-fully embrace the future, the church council, the staff and I have begun taking steps to begin a strategic planning process that will engage the congregation in asking "Where to from here?" Through this process, we will need the congregation's help in determining how our ministry has been impacted by the pandemic. Right now, I have more questions than answers, but sometimes asking the right questions is what we need in order to embrace the future. Here are some of the questions I am asking:

- What are the current congregational needs? What does ministry look like now?
- With volunteer participation falling off significantly – What ministry is sustainable? How are people seeking to engage or re-engage now?
- In what ways can we help people discover more fully what it means to be "the body of Christ" – discover a sense of authentic Christian community?
- What kind of ministry, engagement, and participation are people needing who continue to connect with worship online?

You may have your own questions. I invite you to share them as we discern God's future together. I am confident that he who began a good work in us will bring it to conclusion. May God bless Our Saviour's ministry throughout this coming year.



**“It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night.” Psalms 92:1-2**

2021 has been a year of ‘returns’ to a degree, to in-person worship and ministry. We have not returned to pre-pandemic realities, but rather, are creating new realities to be our norms. For instance, the Women and Men’s mid-week Bible studies are back meeting in person, with the option (if one alerts a pastor ahead of time) to join via Zoom. My Monday evening occasional Topical Bible Study which started on Zoom has remained on Zoom, because we have found that it provides an easy means for participants to join the study from home. And of course, masks are being worn in greater or lesser numbers during worship or other events, depending upon infection rates in the community at any given time. Yet, with all of these changes over the past twenty-two months, the life of our congregation goes on. We have five opportunities to worship each and every week! Our music, outreach, youth, adult and care ministries continue, some of them even more robustly than before!

In other words, God is still moving in the world, in the church, in and through our congregation, and in and through our individual lives! Let us focus upon what God is doing, and calling us to do, in these different, and sometimes difficult days. Amen!

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Theresa Chatelle has been doing a great job in leading Our Saviour’s outreach ministries into the community, and beyond. As Outreach and Events Coordinator, Theresa has been busy continuing our historic outreach ministry in supporting and working alongside Hastings Family Services, Lewis House, United Way, 360 Ministries, and so many more organizations, while finding new ways to be God’s “hands, feet and heart” in the world. Theresa Chatelle’s report will highlight the work of our Outreach ministries in 2021.

As I shared above our existing adult learning opportunities have needed to be flexible and able to adapt to the changing situation. The following study groups still meet weekly: the Women’s Tuesday at 9:00 am in the chapel, and Men’s studies on Wednesday at 8:00 am and Thursday at 9:00 am, both in the Fellowship Hall. Also, there is an occasional Monday topical study held on Zoom at 6:30 pm. Watch the website, Facebook page and ‘The Messenger’ newsletter to see when the next study will be held. To be a part of these studies, simply come at the appointed time and place, or contact the church office for more information.

We are offering a new opportunity for learning Sundays at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The sessions last for only 25 minutes. We will be offering a variety of subjects and speakers during the year. You can come occasionally or every Sunday; there will be no demand for attendance during a series. Each session offers a new opportunity to learn and grow in your faith. Our hope is that anyone attending either the 9:00 am or 10:30 am worship services feels welcome to extend their morning at church by 30 minutes to learn something new.

In September we were able to bring back the WOW service, Wednesday evening meal, and the youth offerings of JAM and God + Life. We surely missed our Wednesday evenings didn’t we?

As the autumn passed, we realized that the experience is more than simply Worship on Wednesday with an added meal and programming. Rather, it has become a time of refreshment and renewal for individuals, families and so, the congregation, to gather mid-week and be refreshed. As a way then to tie all of Wednesday evening at church together we have decided to re-name and brand the entire experience as, REFRESH! Join us on Wednesdays for: food, fellowship, faith growth and worship.

This past year has offered a great variety of opportunities to worship at Our Saviour's, both in-person and online. What helps make Our Saviour's worship so wonderful is the music! Like 2020, 2021 was also a year in which the world needed beautiful and meaningful music. I want to thank all of the musicians and singers who have shared of their gifts, talents and hard work to create beautiful live music, and to put meaningful music online each and every week. Planning, practicing, coordinating and finally playing or singing the music that enhances the scripture, season and days of our lives, while offering worship to God, is what our music staff is all about. Diane Pearson, Jason Craft and the New Creation Band, Seth Duin, Erik Pearson, Kathy Hardy, Mike Borash and the WoW/REFRESH Band have all done it again. Musicians, you all know what you have done, and I thank you most sincerely for your hard work, ingenuity, vision, skills and good sense of humor as we have all tried to find a way through all of the twists and turns of another tumultuous year.

Part of my ministry here at Our Saviour's is to get to know, teach, and help lead parts of our youth ministry, which is under the leadership of Amy Hanson. Leading a small group of ninth graders in our God + Life confirmation ministry on a weekly basis has become a time of joy for me. These youth are great and have much to offer now, as well as in the future!

I was able to see and experience the energy, intelligence, compassion, hard-work and sense of mission that our high school youth have when I helped to lead the High School Mission trip to Oklahoma City this past July. What a great trip! I am looking forward to the same this year when we head to Alaska to work, learn, and grow in faith as we work alongside and help out the people of Fairbanks.

Our Saviour's Lutheran is a special place. It is not one thing, person or ministry that makes it special, but rather that we are called by God to be God's body at worship and work in this specific place and time. When I say 'we' I mean all of us together. A church is not a place in which the staff creates ministry for the members to partake of, but rather where all of the people worship, minister and grow together, both inside as well as outside of the church building's walls. This means that we are ALL church together! So, we invite you to come and...worship, work and minister alongside of your sisters and brothers in Christ this coming year. Let's see how and to where God leads us in 2022!

In Christ's love,  
Pastor Joel Rova-Hegener

March 1, 2021 - a new ministry began at OSEL. The idea of a Parish Nurse position to help meet physical, mental, and spiritual health needs of members and their families was now reality.

As Parish Nurse my initial outreach was to members living alone who possibly lacked support. I could visit members living in facilities early on in this role. However, many members living on their own were not ready to accept visits until they completed their vaccinations. I connected with members by phone and sent a follow-up Hope Card and note to them in the mail after initial calls. Often, I placed additional check-in calls after the first calls, depending on need. Members also called me with questions or to share health updates.

Early in this role I promoted mental health support such as crisis phone numbers, crisis response services, relaxation techniques for adults and children, and resources available through various organizations. I am grateful to be part of the Hastings Opioid and Fentanyl Poisoning Awareness workgroup, as one of the task force leads. Formation of this group stemmed from United Way of Hastings. The workgroup was created to promote awareness and education following opioid overdose and fentanyl poisoning of youth in Hastings. This work spurred me to research and share valuable information about brain development in adolescents and young adults. This information helps explain how decisions are made in this stage of life and how use of substances can result in harmful effects to developing brains. I will share this information with the workgroup and with our church family.

Visits to people in their homes include an overview of their physical abilities and challenges. I observe how they navigate within their home. I may check their blood pressure. I ask about their concerns and any need for help. I offer education, resources and guidance documents. Often people aren't aware of help available or lack computers to search for help. I ask about their mental health and offer suggestions if the member needs help to find the joy in their days. I also address their spiritual health during this pandemic. I ask if they can access OSEL services in-person, online or on radio. They may request a devotional booklet, maybe large print. The offer of Communion is so appreciated by them. I give them a Hope Card, explaining how the nature photo I took on the card shows the hand of God in the tiniest of details of His creation and His caring love for us. I explain the hope verse from Romans that offers hope, peace, and joy for those who trust in God. I often give photo bookmarks made with Bible verses or prayers. If the member desires a Pastoral visit, I will forward that request. I connect with the pastors when the member has needs beyond my scope or when health declines significantly.

Areas I am currently developing support for include new parents, raising children with special needs, miscarriage ministry, divorce implications, financial struggles, and topics such as living with chronic pain. To be able to provide care across the generations of members at Our Saviour's is indeed an honor. I am so very blessed to serve the Lord in this way, in this place.

Sherri Lohmann RN, OSEL Parish Nurse

*“For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.” ~ Hebrews 10:36*

2021 continued to bring challenges due to COVID-19 and the ripple effects of so many factors affecting our youth and families. This year stressed a particular type of endurance – the kind that is marked by patience and understanding with a drive to meet people where they are at. It calls for innovation and a focus on being present for our youth and families.

Throughout 2021, OSEL was determined to continue bringing together the mission of the church with our youth and families. Several new programs were launched including a High School ministry small group called Donuts & Devos and a number of Middle School service-based opportunities hosted during the summer called Summer BLAST. Our God+Life groups met in-person and engaged in service projects once per month such as Food4Kids, The Sandwich Project, and building kits for the homeless, to demonstrate Jesus’ calling for us to serve others.

CYF was also dedicated to providing a Wednesday evening experience to our families and youth that serve their needs mid-week. JAM was offered each week along with God+Life, a full meal, and a brief service. The WoW Band has expanded to include Mike Borash and Noah Zak, along with Blake Zak and Paul Woog. The messages for WoW focused on specific words with relevant meaning and this has been well received. We continue to see families and youth attend the WoW service each week.

As we continue to evolve, CYF is dedicated to providing our families with ways to grow their faith and feel connected to the church community. We welcome your feedback and invite you to share your ideas, talents, and time with us!

## **ANNUAL PROGRAMMING**

### **Birth – 3 Years**

#### **Cradle Roll Program**

We continue to welcome our newest members by providing a SPARK Bible, candle, and Baptismal keepsake at Baptism. The family also receives a card each year on the Baptismal date and is invited into our programming at 3 yrs of age.

### **Child Care Room**

We offered childcare again in the nursery during service times starting in the Fall. We do not see many babies or very young children using the room on a regular basis, however we believe it’s important the room stays open for those times when parents need it.

### **3 Years – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

#### **JAM (Jesus and Me)**

We continued to offer JAM on both Sundays and Wednesdays in 2021 with the change of starting as a large group in the Youth Center (basement) for grades 1 – 6. This allowed for a time of recreation (GaGa Ball, games, art) and a short recap of what the lesson for the day would be. This also provided time to enjoy music with Blake Zak leading a few songs each time. We have 120 students enrolled in JAM for the 2021-22 school year.

## **7<sup>th</sup> Grade – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade**

### **God+Life (Confirmation)**

God+Life resumed in-person meetings on Wednesdays and we have 81 students enrolled for the 2021-22 school year.

### **Vacation Bible School**

This summer we were back in person with VBS. It was great to work with 50+ students and over a dozen youth volunteers to put on the “Treasured” theme. Participants received a t-shirt for the week and brought home crafts and snacks each day.

### **First Communion Workshop and Service**

Back in 2021, we hosted several First Communion Workshops and services to accommodate those who are interested in learning more about Communion and celebrating their First Communion. We had 10-12 students attend each time and will continue to offer these in 2022.

## **MISSION WORK**

### **High School Mission Trip**

During the summer of 2021, OSEL took ten High School youth and three chaperones to Oklahoma City, OK to be the hands, feet, and heart of Christ. Participants took part in several projects that included painting, replacing window framing and roofing, building a fence, and creating framework for an eave on a building. All of these projects supported organizations and individuals in low-income areas. The group also experienced several outings and fun adventures to grow their relationships with one another and God.

### **Monthly Service Projects**

Throughout 2021, CYF and the Outreach Coordinator worked together to create a monthly service project for the God+Life small groups. Each group had one week a month to pack Food4Kids bags, make sandwiches for The Sandwich Project, pack kits for the homeless, make cards for those in local retirement communities, and various other projects that give back to our community. This will continue during the 2021-22 school year.

## **NEW PROGRAMMING**

### **Donuts & Devos**

New in the Fall, Donuts & Devos offers a small group setting for High School students to grow their faith. Donuts & Devos meets once per month at 7am for a brief devotion, discussion, prayer, and beverage/donuts. Thus far, we have had 7-10 youth attend each time and are looking to build the group in 2022.

### **Youth Nights**

In an effort to both regain connection and provide a fun space for youth, Youth Nights made their debut in 2021. Each night has a theme (Glow Night, Christmas Party, Baking) and only students in a specific age group are invited. We have focused primarily on 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> grades and 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grades at this point, but are looking to expand the offering to the 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades and 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> grades. We have had 20+ youth attend each time and have a blast together. We will continue to offer Youth Nights on select dates in 2022.

**Summer BLAST (Bringing Laughter and Service Together)**

Summer BLAST was created to offer Middle School students a way to serve their community throughout the summer while also having a ton of fun. Each day was themed with topics like Science, Water, and World, and was filled with a specific service project and fun activity. Youth participated in things like serving hot dogs to community members at Hastings Family Service and packing food bags at Feed My Starving Children, and then experienced activities such as the Hastings Aquatic Center, Prescott Beach, and science experiments. We had 12-19 youth participate each time.

I feel so blessed to be able to do what makes my heart happy! I truly love being able to help people in many different ways. The generosity of this congregation makes doing all of these things way easier. Thank you for that!!

This past year we have been able to support many organizations within our community as well as outside of Hastings:

**Hastings Family Service** - We donated school supplies and backpacks for their backpack drive, collected and donated diapers and wipes through our Birthday Party for Jesus and provided kits/bags filled with essential hygiene items for the homeless.

We hosted the **Santa's Secret Workshop** program for the Projected Share families. Kids are able to shop and wrap gifts for their family members.

We supported **Lewis House** through donations as well. We have been able to collect and distribute quilts, sheets, blankets, hats, mittens, socks, food and several gift cards for the families.

We supported **Ally Services**, whose mission is to fight and end homelessness, through various donations and provided them a space to hold meetings with their clients.

We supported **United Way** through our donations to the Food 4 Kids program and by packing several hundred Food 4 Kids bags that are distributed as weekend meals for families in need in the Hastings Schools.

We supported **TLC (Total Life Care)** of Hastings through donations of baby clothes and quilts.

We made 400 sandwiches for the homeless and delivered them to **The House of Charity** in Minneapolis.

I am also on a few task force committees through **Hastings United Way- Helping Kids Succeed** and **Fentanyl Overdose Task Force**.

New this year is the **Adopt a Vet** program. We were able to fill the needs of 11 Veterans. We also toured the **Vet's Home** here in Hastings and now have a connection and will be able to meet other needs they may have.

**Gather and Gab** is for families to gather and do a service project together, followed by the kids doing a fun activity while the parents gab about things on their minds. We have met several times this past year and will continue to do so.

We are also looking forward to expanding our outreach, not just through giving, but working to help people to connect to OSEL and our community by focusing on where our hearts and passions are, then seeing how we can use these passions to help us connect in a deeper more meaningful way.



*Council &*

*Ministry Team*

*Reports*



The Finance Committee would like to thank you for your partnership and continued support of the program ministry and vision at Our Savior's. Your generous donation of time & resources allows us to sustain many areas of ministry and to maintain our beautiful church. I am grateful to work with you as we seek to live the mission statement of Our Saviour's, "Living as the hands, feet and heart of Christ."

Below is a summary of the operating activity for 2021.

Giving:

- Giving for 2020 was \$910,515, an increase of 2.6% vs. 2019 and a decrease of -1.1%, and -2.2% compared to 2018 respectively.

Expenses:

- Total expenses for 2021 were \$911,430, an increase of 2.2% vs. 2020, and a decrease of -4.4% and -.5% compared to expenses for 2019 and 2018 respectively.
  - o The increase in expense is primarily driven by a full year of on-line worship service costs, the 150th anniversary celebration, and insurance benefits. This was offset by lower building and HVAC costs driven by the replacement of old equipment. Overall costs for 2021 remain lower than normal years due to the continued reduced programs and costs resulting from Covid 19.

Capital Projects:

- In 2021 we invested in a new HVAC system to replace equipment that was no longer working, improved the air quality in the building, and allowed for monitoring services giving us the ability to manage temperatures and identify building issues throughout the day. We spent \$38,548 toward the cost of the project in 2021. The remaining balance to complete is estimated to be \$52,000. Giving to this project was \$64,294 in 2021.

Capital Appeal:

- We made a payment of \$31,506 to Vermillion State Bank to pay off the loan that was used for the 2016 parking lot, elevator & upstairs refurbishment.

Loan:

- The outstanding balance as of the end of 2021 is \$0.
- The loan was due 6/1/2021, however was paid off early to reduce interest and having dedicated funds available.

Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Loan:

- As part of the CARES Act, in 2020 we applied for and received a \$152,000 loan to cover payroll and related expenses. The loan was forgiven in 2021.

### **Summary of 2021 Operations**

Giving + Interest	\$910,693
Expenses	(\$911,429)
Giving less Expenses	(\$736)
 Payments to Saint Paul Area Synod	 \$51,330
 Operating Account Balance	 \$54,386
Designated Funds Balance	\$532,838
Memorial Savings Balance	\$62,466
Growing in Grace Balance	\$0
 Loan Balance (principal + interest)	 \$0

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jean Lodermeier  
Treasurer

It seemed like 2020 was a year of WHAT are we going to do? After riding out that storm, sometimes with our eyes covered, 2021 became a year of HOW are we going to do this? I think we can all agree that OSEL has very successfully handled that. Events and activities are as back to normal as we can hope for. A huge thanks and kudos to our amazing staff. They work like a well-oiled machine and deserve our appreciation and thanks on a daily basis. Youth programming is back, Chef Johnny is back, in-person services and small groups are back. Our help in the community has been strong (and growing) when and where we are able. There are a couple of other areas of interest that deserve notation. The new, very functional and user-friendly website is 100% up and running. Thomas Walt has very diligently managed the 'revamp' of our HVAC system (and other areas of building efficiency) and this is basically complete. Thank you to everyone who had a hand in both of those much needed updates.

One of the biggest topics of 2021 was that we celebrated our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a church. A hard-working team of members planned and executed a fantastic celebration picnic, commissioned a statue that now sits on the south side of the church, and designed new ornaments for purchase. Stay tuned for more coming in 2022! Thank you to the members of that team. It was a difficult task, and a lot of pressure to plan such an important event. You did a GREAT job!

The 2021 stewardship appeal focused on three main areas: hiring a Parish Nurse (which has been done and has been extremely successful and helpful), hiring a Youth Coordinator (the job description and listing are out there), and enhancing online opportunities.

After two terms, this is my last year as a council representative. It has been my honor to serve Our Saviour's and a pleasure to serve with amazing people. We've had a very active and sometimes trying few years: staff changes, updating the church constitution, navigating a pandemic, changes in planning, just to name a few.

My hope for OSEL in 2022 and beyond is normalcy, growth and to be energized. We have a wonderful congregational family and together, we are GREAT!

Thank you for allowing me to serve.  
God Bless.

Cathy Shores  
Council President

Our Saviour's has been truly blessed with staff and volunteers who led our church as we navigated the challenges associated with operating a church in a pandemic.

Thank you to all of you who have returned your Plan for Giving cards. As I write this report, we have received fewer Plan for Giving cards than we received last year. We are asking that you prayerfully consider returning your cards as they allow us the council to better plan and budget.

This year the Stewardship Team continued its use of the Synod program Stewardship for All Seasons. It consists of a year 1 and year 2 program. We continued to attend cohorts (groups of other churches) meetings to discuss what was working and what was not working at the various churches and share about stewardship in the greater church.

Our theme this year was Harvesting Hope as our congregation celebrated the bountiful and joyful harvest and committed to provide to spiritual opportunities for our youth, health related pastoral care and continue our online worship opportunities. We continue to celebrate a different ministry each week as we continue with the Stewardship for All Seasons throughout the year, not just in the fall.

The initiatives that were approved by the church council as focus areas for Stewardship for 2022 were:

- Building deep, life-long faith in our youth by fully staffing our Youth & Family area. Our youth are the future of Our Saviour's. It is important to have the staff to support our growing youth programming.
- Continuing our Parish Nurse program in order to support the physical, mental, and spiritual health of all our members.
- Providing faithbuilding opportunities for all of our members. Our online worship continues to reach people all over the world and many members have embraced the ability to attend church and participate in small groups when they are unable to make it to our building.

Our chosen verse was Deuteronomy 16:15 that tells us "For the Lord your God will bless you in all your harvest and in all the work of your hands, and your joy will be complete."

Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ through this church with your time, your talents and your treasure. Thank you for your continuing support of Our Saviour's.

Blessings in Christ,  
The Stewardship Leadership Team  
Kathleen O'Connor, Chair

The Endowment Committee is responsible for administering the Endowment Fund, investing the principal and disbursing the earnings as directed by the OSLC charter. Members of the Endowment Committee are elected at the congregation's Annual Meeting. Each committee member is elected for a three-year term starting the year of their election.

**Vermillion State Bank Account:** The 12/31/21 ending balance is \$4,920. This account received \$2,398 in income distributions from the ELCA Endowment Trust Account and earned \$4 in interest from Vermillion State Bank. There were two \$1,000.00 distributions made to the recipients of the 2021 scholarships. In the past we've paid \$1,000 to one scholarship recipient and \$1,000 to a charity chosen by the congregation at the annual meeting. This year the decision was made to pay two scholarships as a charity was not chosen during the annual meeting.

#### **Vermillion State Bank - Cash Account**

<b>Beginning Balance 1/01/2021</b>	<b>\$ 4,518.</b>
Interest from ELCA & VSB	\$ 2,402.
2021 Scholarship Recipients	(\$ 2,000.)
<b>Ending Balance 11/30/2020</b>	<b>\$ 4,920.</b>

At the time this report was constructed, year-end figures were not available for the ELCA Endowment Trust Account.

**ELCA Endowment Trust Account:** The ending balance as of 11/30/21 is \$70,910. The market value increased \$6,131 of which, \$2,398 was distributed and deposited into the Vermillion State Bank account. There was one donation of \$250 to the Endowment Fund in late December that will be deposited in 2022.

#### **ELCA Endowment Trust Account**

<b>Beginning Balance 1/01/2021</b>	<b>\$ 67,177.</b>
Change in Market Value	\$ 6,131.
Income Distributions	(\$2,398.)
<b>Ending Balance 11/30/2021</b>	<b>\$ 70,910.</b>

Faithfully Submitted,  
Robert Judge  
Treasurer

The Memorial and Gifts Committee oversees the funds the church receives in memory or in honor of a loved one or special occasion. Families can designate a ministry area the funds are to be used for and any funds given that were not designated for a specific area are distributed as the committee sees needs and receives requests.

In 2021 \$8,249.17 was dispersed from the Memorial and Gifts fund:

- Christian Education—3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Bibles
- Youth—Bonfire pit, canopy (for youth and outdoor worship), coolers for mission trip
- Altar Guild—Altar paraments
- Worship & Music—Music and sound equipment, on line worship services, handbell music
- Building— Kitchen equipment, water fountain, HVAC
- Missions—Hastings Family Service

Memorial and gift opportunities are in the following ministry areas: Christian education, youth, worship, music, building and grounds and administration. Specific memorials and gift items are welcomed for consideration by the committee and the Church Council.

We meet quarterly or as a request is received by the committee. If you would like to join our ministry team, please contact any of the committee members listed below.

A special thank you to Marie Smead for recording and depositing gifts, Pam Ganrud for entering all memorials in the permanent record book and to Ruth Dahl for sending thank you notes to donors.

Sam Sorenson, President

Committee members Ruth Dahl, Diane Nelson, Dana Pettit, Deb Siebrecht, Marie Smead, Roger Swanson, Jerry Wiegriefe and Pastor Lloyd Menke

## **Honoring the Past – Embracing the Future**

It is good to honor the past. March 12, 2021 is a significant date. While you might think immediately that this date marks the one year shut down in Minnesota for the coronavirus, this date has even greater significance as the 150th anniversary of the formation of Our Saviour's. On March 12, 1871, a group of 33 Swedish immigrants gathered under the leadership of Pastor J. Magny from Vasa, to charter the "Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hastings." (In 1931 the name was changed to "First Lutheran" and then to "Our Saviour's" in 1948). There is a rich and inspiring story of God's presence in this place through hardship, struggle, World Wars, and bountiful blessings through the years.

A 150th anniversary committee began meeting before Christmas in 2019 to plan a year of celebration leading up to March 12, 2021. The pandemic disrupted those plans. The committee began meeting again in early February 2021 and started developing a plan.

The committee chose "Honoring the Past - Embracing the Future" as a theme for our celebration. Our anniversary celebration began March 14th with Bishop Lull preaching (pre-recorded) at in-person and online services. The committee planned a congregation wide celebration in September.

While this year of celebration was challenged by a global pandemic, the committee had a number of accomplishments and sponsored a number of events including:

- Special video from Pastor Lloyd to commemorate the anniversary
- Anniversary date/weekend event – Sunday, March 14 celebration service commemorating the anniversary provided (via video) by Bishop Patricia Lull
- A 5X10 foot banner was designed and commissioned and used throughout the year to commemorate the anniversary
- A video with interviews of about 50 members telling their stories of Our Saviours was recorded and produced by Seth Duin and will be available soon
- A commemoration book is being completed which will be a continuation of the 125-year history of the church – this will be available digitally, with hard copies available for purchase soon
- A pewter ornament commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary was designed and produced and is being sold with proceeds dedicated to the youth fund. This ornament is a continuation of a collection of other commemorative ornaments
- A school supply drive was organized and 37 backpacks were donated along with a variety of school supplies. These were distributed through Hastings Family Service at the beginning of the school year and extra supplies were distributed and delivered to every school in town
- Our Saviour's sponsored a citywide movie in the park on August 13<sup>th</sup> at the Levee Pavilion and brought crafts and games to share with the community
- As a concrete way to honor the past and embrace the future, a piece of art was commissioned and funds were raised for it. The committee had three main objectives in regard to the artwork: it needed to TELL THE STORY of our church, be something to SHARE with the community and INVITE people to our church. The resulting sculpture on the south lawn does all of this.

- A large outdoor Fall Congregation and Community Celebration was hosted on a beautiful and unseasonably warm day and included:
  - A yellow ribbon parade from the old church at 308 West 9<sup>th</sup> Street to the current church location
  - Pig roast and pulled chicken dinner with sides of potato salad, coleslaw, baked beans and beverages. Ice cream was served during the program. Over 260 people were served
  - Kids activities – jump house, arts and crafts, games and a scavenger hunt
  - Photo board display
  - Parish nurse station
  - Program
    - Welcome and invocation
    - Recognition of and speeches from past pastors
    - Greetings from former youth directors –one in person from first youth director
    - Dramatic reading of the history of Our Saviour's Church
    - Live music by New Creation Band
- A dedication of the sculpture along with filling of the time capsule.

We thank everyone that participated and supported the efforts and events honoring our 150 years of being Our Saviour's and embrace the future with hope for continued opportunities to be the hands, feet and heart of Jesus!

Ellen McCullough and Kristine Thompson, co-chairs



# Hold Fast: 2021 Annual Report

Date posted: Monday 03 January 2022



“Let us hold fast to the confession of our faith without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful.” - Hebrews 10:23

This past year has been a wild ride. COVID-19 vaccinations opened a roadway to imagine more in-person gatherings just as political rancor made it less attractive to be together with those with views other than our own. Summer brought better weather for worshipping outdoors, fall programming was planned, and then a rise in infections from the Delta variant caused new caution and restraint in our church gatherings.

Across the synod, book groups were launched, tackling tough questions of racial justice and long overlooked inequities in communities of color. Leaders embraced important soul work to understand their own bias and resistance to change. Congregation councils wrestled in new ways to understand what it means to be the church today. Live streaming became common place in sanctuaries large and small.

Looking back, 2021 was both a tough year and a transformative time. Last January, did any of us really think we would still be wearing masks and keeping social distance the following Christmas? Yet, when challenged in so many ways, in congregation after congregation, we learned to hold fast to God's promised faithfulness; a wild ride indeed.

## Planting Hope Campaign

Undeterred by not being able to gather in person, at the digital Synod Assembly in mid-May, we launched the synod-wide Planting Hope Campaign. Over the next two years we will work together to raise \$2.75 million dollars to deepen the Spirit's work within and beyond the 109 congregations and mission starts of the synod. Your participation will help us:

- Invite neighbors into life in Christ;
- Renew the congregations of the synod;
- Raise up the next generations of leaders;
- Invest in a transformative project on the East Side of St. Paul with Lutheran Social Service of MN.

The congregational phase begins now in early 2022 with congregations setting aside six weeks this year to introduce the campaign and to invite financial participation. More information on the Planting Hope Campaign can be found at <https://spas-elca.org/planting-hope/>.

## Supporting Rostered Ministers

This synod places high emphasis on raising up the leaders needed for the work of this synod and across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Currently, 38 persons are in the candidacy process, preparing to serve as deacons or pastors. Five candidates were ordained this past year for service in the Saint Paul Area Synod. They include Pastor Tammy Wilkerson, Pastor Teleen Saunders, Pastor Amy Mihelich-Smith, Pastor Linqing Chu and Pastor Bristol Huffman Reading.

In addition, during 2021, 20 persons were installed in new calls in congregations or in specialized ministries. That's a lot of call committee meetings, prayerful deliberations, and congregational meetings. How grateful we can all be that this work did not stop during the disruptions of the pandemic.

Amid the many changes in our communities, strong ministry requires lifelong learning. We are grateful to be in the third year of a generous grant from the Lilly Endowment to support the ongoing learning of pastors and deacons. In 2021, the nine members of the first round of the Second Act Cohort, for pastors and deacons in years four through 10 of public ministry wrapped up their two years together. Ten other pastors and deacons will form a second cohort in early 2022. They will be accompanied by mentors, more experienced clergy with a commitment to walk with rising leaders. Also, the Kubernesis Seminar, for those discerning a call to senior leadership positions, continues to meet quarterly and is eagerly anticipating their capstone sailing trip adventure in August of 2022. A third cohort for Leaders of Color continues to explore how best to invest the resources from the Lilly Endowment to deepen community, learning and support.

### Supporting Lay Leaders

It is not enough to have strong, agile pastors and deacons; resilient lay leadership is also necessary for congregations to thrive. This past year, five congregations participated in a Liberating Structures cohort, learning together how to embrace new opportunities for deepening faith and expanded commitment to others beyond the congregation's walls. Three additional congregations are pursuing a tailor-made renewal process. Six congregations have participated in community listening and engagement training. Do you recognize your congregation's involvement here? If not, the synod staff is here to assist you.

While mission support for synod and ELCA churchwide work has been shared at 96% of that budgeted for the year, many congregations do worry about money matters and seek to strengthen their stewardship skills. This past year, nine congregations – perhaps including yours – participated in a year-long training called Stewardship for All Seasons. It is good to remember that none of us need to navigate these days without encouragement from others.

### Companion Synod Partnerships

Pandemic restrictions on global travel challenged the synod's long-standing partnerships in the Iringa Diocese of Tanzania and in Guatemala but Zoom and video connections opened new ways to be a church that is both local and global. We are especially grateful that in March, Astine and Ryan Bose were able to begin their two years of volunteer service with Bega Kwa Bega in Iringa. God has shown us and our global partners new ways to be connected, habits which will endure long after the pandemic winds down.

### SPAS Staff

Let me end with a special word of thanks to the synod staff. Along with Ryan and Astine Bose, Rolf Lowenberg-DeBoer joined the staff as an assistant to the bishop in March. Other staff include Michael Gold, office assistant; Pastor Justin Grimm, director for evangelical mission and assistant to the bishop; Peter Harrits, director of Bega Kwa Bega and assistant to the bishop; Deacon Krista Lind, assistant to the bishop; Anna Marsh, executive assistant to the bishop; Alicia Rodriguez, office manager; David Roinas, synod finance administrator; and Mary Smith, director of communications.

It has been a wild ride of a year and yet at every rollicking turn along the way, God's faithfulness has sustained us and those we are called to serve. Hold fast, we can say to one another. Please know what a joy it is for all of us to serve with you in the Saint Paul Area Synod.

Yours in God's service –  
Bishop Patricia Lull

# GUSTAVUS

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## GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE

### • ANNUAL REPORT FROM GUSTAVUS CHURCH RELATIONS — DECEMBER 2021 •

Greetings to you from your partners in ministry at Gustavus Adolphus College! The definition of community at Gustavus has always included the wider ELCA community. The network of institutions and relationships which holds our Lutheran congregations, synods, camps, colleges, seminaries, and social agencies together plays a vital role in nourishing and advancing our collective and important contribution to the world. We all make a greater impact because of this diverse network to which we belong.

This is an exciting year at Gustavus as we celebrate 60 years of Christ Chapel and 35 years of the Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations! Through the Gustavus Association of Congregations the Office of Church Relations at Gustavus is connected to over 500 congregations from across the country. These relationships are an important source of Christian faith inspiration and ministry encouragement for the college. We have so very much to be grateful for and celebrate!

As you gather for congregation annual meetings and synod assemblies, we would like you to know our gratitude for your ministry and hope you are inspired by the reminder of the many others who walk alongside you in mission. The Office of Church Relations at Gustavus exists because as a college we live from our Christian faith and desire to be in service to the wider community within which we are rooted. We seek to be a place you might consider as a ministry partner and resource for your congregation's educational goals and growth.

### MARK YOUR 2022 CALENDARS AND JOIN US FOR THESE SPECIAL EVENTS:

- **Annual Gustavus Association of Congregations Business Meeting Luncheon — APRIL 30, 2022**

The Annual Business Meeting of the Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations will gather virtually and feature updates from the Gustavus President and Chair of the Board of Trustees as well as inspiration from Gustavus students. For more information: [gustavus.edu/businessmeeting](http://gustavus.edu/businessmeeting).

- **The Gustavus Academy for Faith, Science, and Ethics — JUNE 18-24, 2022**, an exciting resource for high school youth interested in exploring creative alliances between faith and science. The theme for the 2022 Academy is “*Our Beautiful Brain: Neuroscience, Mental Health, and Resilience*.” For more information and to nominate a high school student: [gustavus.edu/chaplain/academy](http://gustavus.edu/chaplain/academy).

- **Annual Nobel Conference® — SEPTEMBER 28-29, 2022** “*Mental Health (In)Equity and Young People*.” Prioritizing the mental health concerns of young people has become essential amid times of global pandemic, racism, sexism, ableism, social unrest, climate change, and political upheaval. Nobel Conference 58 will address mental health disparities and their effects on youth, with a particular emphasis on the significance of identity, trauma and technology. More details can be found at: [gustavus.edu/events/nobelconference](http://gustavus.edu/events/nobelconference).

- **Christmas in Christ Chapel — DECEMBER 1-4, 2022** This annual tradition in Christ Chapel celebrates and reflects upon the birth of Jesus Christ through worship that features music, dance, spoken word, and the visual arts. Ticket information and archived live stream services can be found at: [gustavus.edu/events/ccr](http://gustavus.edu/events/ccr).

For more information about these events and the many resources we offer congregations, please contact the Office of Church Relations or visit us on-line at: [gustavus.edu/churchrelations](http://gustavus.edu/churchrelations). Thank you for your partnership and prayers!

Yours in Christ,  
Rev. Grady St. Dennis  
College Chaplain/Director of Church Relations



715.268.8434  
lakewapo.org

## Congregational Report 2021

**Thank you for being a Partner Congregation!** We've nearly made it through another pandemic year! I remain grateful and inspired by the work and support of so many people who've continued to rally around this ministry in order that others should experience fellowship in community and come to know Jesus in these beautiful outdoor spaces. We couldn't have made it without the help from donors, prayer warriors, government pandemic programs, retreat guests, day visitors, campers, lively young adult summer staff, our local business banking and CPA offices, our Polk and Cook County health departments, congregations, and you! Special thanks goes out to our staff who exhibit flexibility and creativity as we continue to adapt to the changing Covid landscape.

2021 was challenging, but filled with bright spots. I expect much of the same for 2022 – exciting ministry opportunities, uncertainties about our participant numbers, continued health and safety Covid protocols, challenging budget needs, dynamic initiatives, challenging seasonal staff hiring environment, and more. We are poised to welcome these challenges and opportunities with grace, wisdom, humility and joy! We have good work to do.

**Summer 2021** We were so grateful to bring back summer camp at all three of our sites with strong Covid protocols in place. Due to the nature of the way groups move in and out, Wilderness was able to run canoe trips at their normal level. Wapo and Ox Lake reduced camper capacity to about 40-44% and thankfully an unusually dry summer allowed us to do all normal camp activities outside – including meals. Our summer staff was outstanding! Their incredible level of energy and ability to be flexible gave kids a camp experience that felt “normal”. Camp was much needed after a year into the pandemic and we expect this feeling to continue into 2022.

**Retreats and Events in 2021** Keeping strong Covid protocols in place we were able to host retreat groups at Wapo and Wilderness this fall and into the winter months. Rigorous cleaning and disinfecting protocols continue at all sites as well as masking in public areas. Special events continued with an adapted approach for the Memorial Day Breakfast and Advent on the Go but we were able to run a full Boat-in Worship season and Wapo golf tournament.

**New Faces** We welcomed Liz Bowman on Oct 18, 2021 as our Director of Food Services at Wapo and Eric Klein on Nov 1, 2021. Eric joins the program team with responsibilities for Wapo Seeds, Boat-In, Family Camp, and programmed retreats.

**Wilderness Give to the Max** Wilderness Canoe Base received a \$40,000 gift match for the GiveMN Give to the Max day. On November 18<sup>th</sup>, friends of WCB met that match, raising just over \$80,000 in one day for Wilderness Canoe Base.

**The Gather Campaign for a new Dining Hall and Hospitality Center** Our Site and Facilities crew will be finishing up Phase 1 of the Gather project this winter while development staff and campaign committee have begun feasibility interviews to determine the scope of Phase 2 to finish the project. We are incredibly grateful for the support we have received to be able to complete phase 1 with the funds we had already raised. Now as we live into this building and determine the needs for finishing the project, we are excited to make final plans in 2022 for what the completed building will look like. Please prayerfully consider how you might be able to financially support this important project as we continue to raise funds for Phase 2. See building progress at [lakewapo.org](https://lakewapo.org).

**Strategic Plan Initiative.** This fall we began Strategic Initiative work with the Joshua Group. We launched a camp impact survey and started individual interviews with staff, Board, and friends of the organization. This strategic work will help us be aligned for meaningful and transformative ministry in an ever-changing ministry landscape.

**Our theme for 2022 is “Take Hold”** John 16:33 says, “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” This summer we will explore what it means for roots of faith to take hold of the soil around us, as the soil takes hold of us. We know Jesus changed everything when he conquered the world for all. He gives us his peace even when the world gives us trouble, and helps us to see how God's love changed everything for all people. Join us as we Take Hold of this promise.

We look ahead with eager anticipation and a sure sense of hope.

## Nominating Committee Report

**Our Saviour's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Hastings, MN 55033**

**Annual Congregational Meeting  
Sunday, January 30, 2022  
10:00 AM  
Official Ballot**

### Church Council

Vote for three for three year term

- ☐ Amy Buechler  
☐ \*Tricia Agen  
☐ \*Rod Risch  
☐ \_\_\_\_\_  
\* Incumbent

Vote for one for one year term

- ☐ Rob Judge  
☐ \_\_\_\_\_

### Nominating Committee

Vote for two for two year term

- ☐ Molly Welshons  
☐ Sherri Fox  
☐ \_\_\_\_\_

### Endowment Foundation

Vote for two for three year term

- ☐ Derrick Jaeger  
☐ Susie Stoltz  
☐ \_\_\_\_\_

### Delegate to Gustavus Adolphus Congregation Association

Vote for one for one year term

- ☐ Nick Fox  
☐ \_\_\_\_\_

### Delegates to Saint Paul Area Synod

Vote for six for one year term

- ☐ Dorothy Bensen  
☐ Don Eddy  
☐ Ann Erickson  
☐ John Erickson  
☐ Cindy Obinger  
☐ Jerry Wiegrefe  
☐ \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ \_\_\_\_\_

### Alternates to Synod

Vote for four for one year term

- ☐ Steve Gomez  
☐ Anne Mellesmoen  
☐ Lavonne Soliem  
☐ \_\_\_\_\_

### Approve Proposed Changes to Constitution

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

## **Endowment Foundation Ballot**

### **January 30, 2022**

The Our Saviour's Endowment Foundation has \$1000 to give to a worthy cause that supports the mission and ministry of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. Please vote for (1) one of the ministries listed below by placing an (X) by the ministry.

Please vote for only (1) one.

#### ***Ally Services***

Ally Services provides a street trained advocate working in the Hastings community experienced in engaging homeless individuals who struggle with mental health disorders and/or substance use disorders. Ally works takes a partnership approach to ending homelessness. This approach provides resources as quickly as possible to those experiencing homelessness, wherever they are, and in a collaborative effort with the Hastings Police Department to identify, locate and serve the homeless in our community.

#### ***Lewis House (360 Communities)***

Since Lewis House opened its doors in 1979, more than 90,000 survivors of domestic and sexual violence have benefited from its safety, support and advocacy services, with help provided to over 3,000 women and children annually. Trained advocates offer emotional support, safety planning, referrals to community resources and help in navigating the court system.

Providing a safety net for women who experience domestic violence, these services work closely with local police to provide 24-hour support and advocacy. We raise awareness that domestic abuse affects everyone regardless of race, age, religion, and income.

#### ***Hastings Veteran's Home***

Help our local veterans at the Hastings Veterans Home receive things they need and enjoy.