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**St. Olaf Lutheran Church Annual Meeting of the Congregation Agenda
Sunday, May 3, 2015 – 10:15 a.m.**

Call to Order

Approval of May 4, 2014 Annual Meeting Minutes

President's Report – Ron Egelseer

Treasurer's Report – John Christenson

Ministry Reports

Pastor – Pastor Matthew Lee

Youth Director – Justine Cadena

Comments from any Committee Chairpersons (other than written reports)

Review and Vote on the 2015-16 Ministry Plan

Adjourn

Lord's Prayer

Minutes from the Annual Meeting of St. Olaf's Congregation
Sunday, May 4, 2014 10:25 a.m.
26 people present

Devotions were given by Pastor Matt reflecting on Luke Chapter 15 and asking that the Lord guide us in our meeting as He is the One who leads.

Mary Herschoff moved to accept the minutes of the 2013 annual meeting. The motion was seconded by Dennis Portz. Motion was carried.

President's report: Ron Egelseer asked everyone to challenge themselves. Ask yourself "Why do I attend church?" Give back some of the time the Lord gives to you. Ron expressed a plea for help: We have a shortage of funds. Another challenge for us: Although we have had an increase in revenue, we've also had an increase in expenses. We haven't communicated that message to the congregation enough. Some members may think everything is OK. A portion of our fundraising events goes to sustain the church because our plate offerings are low.

Ron's biggest message was consistent giving. Some members may consider Pastor Matt's sermon as a performance, then give accordingly. This isn't so.

Ron said John Christenson (as treasurer) has done an excellent job of getting finances in place.

Ron questioned when our mission statement was made, "Sharing God's Love, Caring for Community". Answer from group: When Pastor Westfield was here, 10-15 years ago. Ron hears many positive comments from those outside our church membership regarding activities at St. Olaf's. He expressed thanks to those who organize these events. We must continue to embrace & expand on this.

John Christenson reported we had an income of \$167,097 last fiscal year, up 2% from the previous fiscal year. However, expenses amounted to \$173,037. Benevolences were up \$5,200, but we are still behind on our commitment. The ministry plan for the current fiscal year is \$186,602, which is 2% lower because we have no custodian salary expense. Payroll is 6% lower than last year, because we have no custodial position and our church accountant, Nicole, didn't take as much salary as budgeted. We have been borrowing from the mortgage fund to pay general expenses. Fundraising events have helped. We need an extra 7% in giving to meet this ministry plan. Ron said everyone in the church should at one time or another serve on the finance committee to gain insight into this undertaking.

John reported that 15% of the congregation responded to his commitment letter for 2014-15. The total committed is 36% of actual expenses from 2013. The amount pledged to the mortgage reduction fund is 52% of what is required to make our mortgage payments. We owe \$272,000 on our mortgage. We will refinance in November. He plans on having a mortgage fund drive before then. He will also have another mailing going to about 5,000 households in a 4-5 mile radius of St. Olaf's. He will include information on our ice cream social and VBS.

Last year, \$1,500 was budgeted for Sunday School, and \$264 was spent. This year's ministry plan for Sunday School has been raised to \$3,000. Kids are our future. Jerry Bohlen suggested we use some of the funds for the upcoming Colorado trip. Connie Kreuser said any student who wants to go on the trip should be able to do so. Justine said if 12 people go on this trip, about \$10,000 would be needed.

Elaine said June 8 is "Bring a Friend Sunday".

Motion was made by Cindy, seconded by Jane, that we accept the 2014 -15 ministry plan. Motion carried by vote.

Elaine & George Monis and Jerry Schlieve were given a round of applause in appreciation of their custodial work.

Justine said a lot of ministry goes on outside the walls of our church. We need more participation in Family Promise. Captive Free is coming, a cross-generational event. Encourage others to attend. Whatever we do, Christ is at the center. Justine received a round of applause for her ongoing contributions to St. Olaf's.

Pastor Matt said all our ministries work together. The Leadership Team keeps us on track. We have several multi-purpose events. Pastor's position: Follow the Spirit. Our small group ministries are great. We have been partnering with other congregations, which is encouraged. There is no competition, as every congregation has its own personality.

Ron complimented Pastor on his sermons, saying he is gifted and brings value to St. Olaf's.

Elaine encouraged members to subscribe to The Lutheran. We need 40 people to subscribe in order to get the reduced rate.

Gene Eggert reported on Properties Committee activities. The coffee station only needs a granite top yet. Randy Solveson donated his time in making this station. Roger is working on quotes for remodeling the kitchen and getting stainless steel countertops. The committee is also working on the sign outside. Pastor complimented Gene on his work. Gene received a round of applause.

Jessie Bohlen agreed that consistent giving is important, and the word needs to go out to especially those people who weren't at the meeting. We should promote Simply Giving.

John Christenson said there are four opportunities to give if you go on the church's website.

Jerry Bohlen suggested that those who "consider" themselves members must be informed of our church's financial situation. Ron said that in a survey, 80% of people believe in God, but where are they?

Motion was made by Cindy to adjourn the meeting @ 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lyn Johnson
Acting Recording Secretary

Report from the President of the Congregation

Endowment and Special Project Trust – 2013-14 Report

Report from the Treasurer

St. Olaf Commitment Report 2015

The Finance and Stewardship Committees created a Commitment form for the Fiscal Year 2015 to gauge the commitments of the congregation for budgetary purposes. Here are the results:
15 families responded to the effort.

Yearly Commitment:

General Fund: \$28,260.00

Mortgage Fund: \$19,680.00

Average Commitment per family who responded to effort.

General: \$1884.00/year

Mortgage: \$1312.00/year

Budget (based on 2014)

General: \$186,602.00

Mortgage: \$ 55,200.00

Percent of Budget Committed to fund by members who responded to effort.

General: 15%

Mortgage: 36%

Respectfully Submitted,

John Christenson

Treasurer

4th Annual Wine & Beer Tasting and Raffle

We had another successful Wine & Beer and Raffle event at St. Olaf's on March 28th, raising \$8513.76 for the church including the trip raffle. We would like to thank all who participated in making this event a highlight of the year. The effort in hosting this event was outstanding and a big thank you goes out to those people who put in tremendous amounts of time in preparing everything from the setup to the food to the basket making to the ticket selling. Thanks, also, to those who attended and made this a fun event. The energy in the church was excellent and everyone was very gracious.

We want to say thanks to our table sponsors, Ashippun Nursery, Architectural Designs, Church Rd. Station, Competitive Awards, Viking Bros, and LKQ. A thank you goes out to all in the congregation who sold raffle tickets for the trip as it raised \$2435.00 alone. We hope to see everyone at next year's event on March 19, 2016.

The monies were distributed as follows:

General Fund \$3648.13

Mortgage Fund \$3648.13

Hall of History \$ 608.75

Audio Visual \$ 608.75

Raffle Winners:

1st prize \$1500 David Christenson (took cash option)

2nd prize \$ 200 Elaine Monis

3rd prize \$ 200 Jim Lumsden

4th prize \$ 100 Diane Cramer

5th prize \$ 50 Jim Christ

6th prize \$ 50 Lisa Rolefson

Wine & Beer Tasting and Raffle Committees

Report from the Pastor

"Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full.'" Luke 14:23

Inviting others to church can be a frightening task. How to get others to come to St. Olaf is also something that I have been asked about lately. It is also something I would like us to start looking at for the upcoming year. But I would like us to do it in a natural way, which makes it much easier.

A healthy approach begins with you. That is, what do you like about this church? Why do you choose St. Olaf as your church home? Find the positive. Positives people are attracted to each other.

This approach has a two-fold effect:

One it puts you in a positive mindset which makes your language exciting to listen to. This approach opens others up to the message you convey about St. Olaf's.

Two, thinking about what you like about St. Olaf also gives you a good story to share. "The sermons are easy to understand." "There are a lot of young families here." "The ministry approaches are refreshing." These positive statements are easy to fill in with examples are inspiring to listen to and simple to tell. But they are also true statements which give our church its unique character. They are also things that others will be able to see if they choose to visit.

Wally and Sandy Friedl, Marie Galbraith and I, were invited to a local church for a music sharing festival. We had a couple of songs we were going to play and share. While we were waiting for the program to begin, we chatted with the others at our table. There was a couple sitting with us who let us know they were church shopping. Wally piped up and said that they should stop by St. Olaf's and check us out. At first the couple seemed hesitant, but as we share all of the great things we have going on at St Olaf's the couple responded positively to the stories. It was a joyful conversation, and the talk flowed very naturally from us all. By the time the program was done, the couple was quite excited to visit and said they plan to show up. Will they? That is not the point, but the seed has been planted by sharing the goodness of who we are.

Jesus says in Luke 14:23, that we are to compel others to come to God's house, but in other areas of scripture Jesus describes the activity like planting seeds (Matthew 13:31-32). We put the word out there, but what happens after that is up to God. That is, our words enters their ears, God does the growth between the ears. We can put reminders out, such as, "Hey, I was hoping to see you last Sunday." I think of that as watering the garden. But it is important not to get too pushy. We cannot force others to come. We are called, though, to entice.

I ask that you give it a try. Your story does not have to be perfect, the more times you share your story the better the story becomes. Invite friends and relatives who do not have a church home. Invite those you find are looking. But always have those positive images about St. Olaf's in your mind. It's your story, all God asks you to do is share it.

God's peace,

Pastor Matt

Report from the Youth Director

April 2014 thru March 2015 Annual Report of the Cross-Generational Ministry Coordinator

Dear Friends in Christ,

Ministry here at St. Olaf's is about Sharing God's Love and Caring for Community, our church's mission statement. We share God's love with our students and their parents by being there for them, praying with them, and walking alongside them on their faith journey. We teach the importance of Scripture, prayer and worship, being thankful, serving others, living according to who God made us to be and how the Bible relates to our lives today, in addition to the Small Catechism and how that applies to our lives. We provide opportunities & lessons designed to help teach how to live life with the faith we have been given.

We continue to focus on "Cross-Generational" Ministry instead of just "Youth Ministry" partnering with parents, mentors and other congregation members to walk and work alongside the students entrusted to our care for their faith journey. We have had several Parent & Youth gatherings, in addition to Mentor & Youth gatherings, to discuss different faith topics and to form relationships. 34 of us also attended the movie "Do You Believe" together in March of this year at the Hartford Theater. Max Roth is now Assisting Minister and Andrew Wiegel plays in the Praise Band.

Youth attended the "Fruits of the Spirit" weekend retreat last April at Lutherdale Bible Camp.

Eight 8th grade youth were confirmed wearing white confirmation robes in April 2014. They were:

Kristopher Bender,

Hannah Fick, Colin Hautala, Megan Radder, Lauryn Slade, Krista Stewart, Catherine VanLare, and Andrew Wiegel.

Each year a Banquet is held and pictures of the Confirmands are taken on the Friday evening before being confirmed.

18 youth are in our present Confirmation class which meets on Sunday evenings from 6-7:30 p.m.

A Point Chart System that was implemented last year for Confirmation class students to keep track of their own service hours, sermon notes, and participation in youth events, aims to give the students accountability and some flexibility to choose which events and service projects they want to participate in. Each new education year, parents are asked to sign a covenant stating they are partnering with us in the faith formation of their child and that they would help guide their students in being diligent about keeping their point charts up-to-date. Parents are also asked to sign up to take turns and attend each Confirmation Class to help guide students during discussion and keep them focused during the teaching time.

Captive Free, a traveling band from Youth Encounter was here at St. Olaf's May 17-18. They are a group of young adults that travel for one year together to inspire those that they meet with music, testimonies, and interaction. Thanks for the Christenson Family for letting them stay at their home and for all those that supplied food and fellowship.

THANKS again to our anonymous donator who gave \$1,000 to start a Matching Fund Drive that raised needed funds for our mission/adventure trip to Fort Collins/Estes Park, Colorado last summer. We had met our match and doubled it with donations, many of which came from outside our congregation. Contributions raised \$2,361.00 in addition to the original donation. Parents contributed an additional \$685. Our Seroogy candy bar fundraiser also brought in \$406.60 which helped pay for our gas. Our fundraising was all put to good use as we "Encountered Christ on the Mountaintops" and worked in the flooded regions of Longmont, Colorado with Lutherans Outdoors Sky Ranch.

A beautiful memory keepsake photo book and video of our trip to Colorado was put together by Carmen Deback who was also one of our chaperones. Each parent purchased a photo book for their youth that went on the trip and gave it to them as a Christmas present. We shared our experience with the congregation on August 17th at the end of worship. 10 youth experienced the trip along with 4 chaperones. They were: Carlie DeBack, Tiana Dorosz, Josie Ray, Taylor and Lauryn Slade, Krista Stewart, Catherine

VanLare, Devin Dunn, Max Roth, Matt Sutrick. Chaperones were Pastor Matt, Carmen DeBack, Connie Kreuser, and Justine Cadena.

Graduate Recognition was the first Sunday in June at our worship service. Kayla Krassman, a college student, gave a personal message to all those present. A "God Bless the Graduates" cake made by Amy Hoffmann was served in the Gathering area after worship. Those graduating from high school were Noah Christel, Jamie Christenson, Isabella Christopherson, Caroline Kraemer, Morgan Smeaton, and Kendra Stewart. Not all graduating youth were present at the recognition. The Youth were given a "Living on Purpose" water bottle and pen set with a Bible verse on it as a reminder that God and St. Olaf's cares for them.

Our annual Ice Cream Social was again held in July with a car/tractor show on the front lawn of St. Olaf's. In addition to being a fundraiser to support our Youth Ministry, this is truly a Cross-Generational event with helpers of all ages participating and attending. Many volunteers are needed to make this event happen so remember to mark your calendar for the last Sunday in July. Many people from the community enjoy it and look forward to it every year. Our profit was \$2,186.06 (up \$59.31 from the prior year).

With the help of a few youth and parents, we sold our leftover food from the Ice Cream Social at the St. Olaf's Blue Grass Festival in August and also picked corn on Roger's farm. We were given donations for our work.

May, August, November of 2014 and February of 2015 were the months St. Olaf's hosted the homeless families from Family Promise and a couple of the youth & parents helped with unloading/reloading the trailer, the set up & take down of cots, and either provided and served the evening meal or helped with clean up and the fellowship hour. Other congregation members continue to be supportive of this very important ministry of partnering with Family Promise.

We continue our commitment to work at the Ashippun Bread Basket Food Pantry on the last Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. to stock shelves and also our commitment to Shorehaven Nursing Home on the 4th Sunday of the month to wheel the elderly to Sunday worship in the Chapel.

TEC (Teens Encounter Christ) weekends have impacted many youth for the last 20 years and are held twice a year at different churches. A few marriages have resulted from meeting their spouses at this Christ-centered retreat. The bond and relationships formed at these weekends are irreplaceable and long-lasting.

In August, TEC was held at Dr. Martin Luther Church in Oconomowoc and at Immanuel Lutheran in Watertown in February. A couple of our teens worked on team for the TEC weekends. For those of you that don't know, TEC weekends are for high school & college age youth up to the age of 21. They are youth led under the direction of two Pastors or spiritual advisors and other adult leaders. During the 3-day TEC weekend, youth are given opportunities to reflect on their Christian beliefs, meet teens from many churches, study the Bible, worship, and listen to testimonies or talks given by teens.

Many youth and adults participated in "God's Work, Our Hands" Day on Sept. 14th wearing their yellow t-shirts and going various places to do ministry. We returned to St. Olaf's for lunch and sharing our experience stories.

Kettle Moraine Ranch in Eagle, WI was where we went horseback riding and enjoyed a hayride and campfire dinner on Sept. 27th. Paintball on October 25th was again a big hit for those that attended Promisedland, a Christian paintball park in Trevor, WI near Kenosha. Again, a few new fathers joined us in going and it was great to see the group spending time together. One high school boy told me that this event is the best event offered and please continue to schedule it.

The Confirmation class students & parents helped make cookies for the Lutefisk dinner and most of them helped out at the dinner. Some of the class also took part in the Christmas Program with the younger children. Some youth helped at the St. Olaf's first annual Valentine Dinner and we were given \$200 to support our ministry for their participation.

On Super Bowl Sunday, the youth again joined other youth across the country in the "Souper Bowl of Caring" and collected \$210 in donations in big soup pots. The donations divided between the Ashippun Bread Basket Food Pantry and the Hartford Food Pantry. Again, it's another way of partnering with others in the community. A few youth made small samples of a rice meal for the coffee hour. Seven of us went to the Buck's game and some also went to Lasertag.

At our March 2015 Pie Auction, they enjoyed the "Pie Walk" and raffled off a Death-by-chocolate torte. Our fundraising events are Cross-Generational and are intended to bring fellowship to all that participate in addition to helping raise funds for the summer youth trips, retreats, or events. We raised \$1,583 (about \$35 more than last year).

My goal for 2015-2016 is to continue to partner in this ministry at St. Olaf's with Pastor Matt, the Youth Ministry Team, parents, and others. I ask for support from the Youth Ministry Team to help me plan & provide activities for the youth. I thank everyone for their support and welcome any suggestions and will continue to pray and ask our Lord for guidance.

In Christ's service,
Justine Cadena, Cross-Generational Ministry Coordinator

April, 2014-March 31, 2015 Finance Report for Youth Ministry Accounts

<u>CHECKING</u>		<u>SAVINGS</u>	
Beginning Balance 4/1/14	\$ 7,548.43	Beginning Balance 4/1/14	\$ 4,052.94
Income April 2014-March 2015	+ 15,273.90	Interest Income	+ <u>4.03</u>
Expenses (checks written)	- 17,010.49		
Ending Balance 3/31/15	\$ 5,811.84	Ending Balance 3/31/15	\$ 4,056.97
<u>CHECKING ACCOUNT INCOME</u>		<u>TOTALS</u>	
Lutherdale Retreat payments	200.00	Checking	\$ 5,811.84
Donation for picking corn	450.00	Savings	+ <u>4,056.97</u>
God's Work, Our Hands t-shirts reimbursement	39.50	Total	\$ 9,868.81
TEC registration payment	65.00		
Confirmation pictures/flowers payments	196.00		
Paintball – Students' payments	400.00		
Hayride/Corn Maze payments	203.00		
Horseback riding payments	325.00		
Lasertag payments	300.00		
Buck's game payments	70.00		
Thrivent quarterly donations	346.50		
Captive Free Offerings	397.00		
Matching Fund Drive total for mission trip	3,361.00		
Parents' payments for Colorado trip	685.00		
Trip photo memory books	273.00		
Seroogy candy bar sale	901.15		
t-shirts for trip	73.00		
Ice Cream Social	3,189.79		
Profit from Blue Grass Festival food sold	1,000.00		
Profit- Four Guyz event food sold/bake sale	859.96		
Valentine Dinner Donation for helping	200.00		
Donation for Christmas program pictures	25.00		
Youth payment for mini golf	6.00		
Donation for Pie Auction 2015	50.00		
Pie Auction March 2015	1,557.00		
"Do You Believe" Movie (adults paid)	<u>101.00</u>		

To be used for next summer's mission trip
Local activities being planned for this year

NOTE:
Donations given for the Souper Bowl of Caring are handled through St. Olaf's General Fund and therefore count towards benevolences.

Start up cash for Ice Cream Social and Pie Auction aren't reflected in totals since they are out & back in transactions

Respectfully submitted:
Justine Cadena
Cross-Generational Ministry Coordinator

Total Income thru March 2015

\$ 15,273.90

CHECKING ACCOUNT EXPENSES

Lutherdale Retreat	400.00	Blue Grass Festival soda to sell	29.84
Confirmation pictures, flowers & banquet/gifts	207.57	Four Guyz event food	228.59
Graduate Recognition Cake	45.00	Christmas Program pics/albums	37.00
Pie Auction 2015 supplies	23.99	Miscellaneous-class lessons' items	49.44
TEC (Teens Encounter Christ weekend)	65.00	Postage-return Bible to Sky Ranch	15.78
Captive Free – Youth Encounter	490.00	Paintball event	700.00
DVD – God’s Not Dead Movie	15.80	Hayride/Corn Maze	226.00
Compassion – last support payment	46.54	Horseback riding event	810.00
Seroogy’s candy bar fundraiser	494.55	Lasertag event	280.00
T-shirts for Trip	135.00	Buck’s game-Tickets/parking	112.00
Colorado Mission/Adventure Trip	10,764.98	Indoor Mini-Golf	27.46
Trip photo memory books	316.75	Youth tickets-DoYou Believe movie	280.50
Service Fees from Bank	36.00	Snacks & food for events/class	<u>96.11</u>
Blue Ray Player for downstairs Activity Room	72.86		
Ice Cream Social	1003.73	Total Expenses thru March 2015	\$ 17,010.49

Report from Properties Committee

Committee members: Peggy Morrissey (chair), John Christenson, Gene Eggert, Roger Johnson, Dave Johnston, Jim Lumsden, Paula Lumsden, George Monis, Dennis Portz, Jerry Schlieve, Dennis Uhlman, Al Warnecke

Our greatest accomplishment this past year has been the installation of our new church pews. We started our fundraising efforts in September of 2014 with the hope that we would have the new pews by Easter of 2015. They were installed on March 11, 2015. In addition, our old pews were donated to a group called the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters. They will eventually reside in Jamaica for a church/school. After the pews were removed, the floors in the church were cleaned and waxed. We also spent a work day cleaning the alter and the wood work. Eventually, we would like to repaint the chair rail area and heat vents. We are in the process of contacting the memorial donors for the plaque information and there will be thank you letters sent to all families who gave to this project.

The welcome counter was completed in fall of 2014 and it seems to work well with the different events that we have including the Valentine's Dinner and the Wine/Beer Tasting. It also is a great coffee and dessert area after Sunday service. Randy Solveson donated his time for building the counter.

The parking lot area was completed in September 2014. All cracks were filled and new parking lines sprayed. The work was done by Applied Sealcoating.

A flat screen monitor for the church was donated and installed and a new projector was purchased. The stand was made by Larry Westfield, former Pastor of St. Olaf's. We are in the process of getting quotes to add a flat screen monitor, projection system and wifi capabilities to the Fellowship Hall. This will not only keep us updated from a technology standpoint, but allow us to rent our Fellowship Hall for different events not associated with the church.

The kitchen remodeling was tabled at this point in time, but a convection oven was donated. This oven is a great addition to our kitchen for all of our events.

A new light in the parking lot was installed before winter last year and an additional one will soon be completed.

Our AED machine now has a new battery and new pads for adults and pediatric patients. Deonne Esker will be doing an in-service on how to use the AED machine on Saturday, May 2nd right after the Saturday worship service and Sunday, May 3rd before the annual meeting.

Our routine maintenance includes testing the elevator, changing filters and converting lights to LED. We will be adding inside cleaning in April and November to prepare for our public events. Outside we continue to do our grounds clean up in May and October.

Upcoming projects for 2015 include: Fixing drywall cracks in various areas of the buildings, install a new dishwasher in the parsonage, paint the garage and address heating issues in the downstairs bathroom. We are also looking for a company to routinely maintain our floors in the Fellowship Hall, Narthex area and youth area downstairs.

Future projects:

Adding stained glass windows in the Narthex area.

Installing some outside electronic signage for the church entrance.

Repainting of the various classrooms, offices, etc. - we will start with the church.

Remodeling of the downstairs kitchen and the addition of a shower for Family Promise.

I wish to thank everyone that serves on this committee. Their hard work and dedication is never ending! I would also like to thank everyone that volunteers their time and services for this church and congregation. THE BEAUTY SURROUNDING ST. OLAF'S IS THE RESULT - THANK YOU!

Respectfully,
Peggy Morrissey

2014 Properties Budget

Report from Music and Worship Committee

“Sing to Him, sing praises to him, tell of all his wonderful works!” 1 Chr 16:9

Each year the Music and Worship Committee strives to make our worship services and our music a vital part of St. Olaf. Much of this falls largely upon congregational music. Hymns are chosen to coincide with the scriptures that are provided through the ELCA in accordance with the “Seasons” of the church year. If there are any favorite hymns or hymns that are in the ELW that you would like included in one of our worship services, we are in the process of instituting a form that will be kept in the office that you can fill out with hymn choices, or something you would like included in our worship service, and then put it in the MW mailbox in the office box. We try to have hymns that our congregation knows, likes, and will sing; along with adding new hymns from the ELW so that we can grow and genuinely participate.

In the same line, we are always looking for congregational participation with “special” music; be it instrumental or vocal. Depending on whether you would like to provide the “special” music for our Saturday worship or our Sunday worship, both Sue and Clara are more than willing to work with you, if needed, or to include your choice. Again, the form is available in the office. We would like to thank the following who provided special music this past year: Austin Brewer, Jeff Brewer, Tiffany Brewer, Sandy Friedl, Wally Friedl, Marie Galbraith, Sue Laubenheimer, Pat Rolefson, Matt Weller, everyone that participated in our Easter choir, and Kathy Johnston and the Praise band. For the season of Epiphany, a new setting for our litany from the E.L.W. was introduced. After a few weeks, members of the congregation felt it was too difficult and we disbanded it. Something like that is truly a trial and error thing and that’s how we move on. Thank you to everyone for your input.

The oil filled Advent Christ candle was purchased this year which completes our candles that are oil filled.

We again offered many “special” services in accordance with the church year (i.e. Reformation, Pentecost, All Saint’s, etc.); “special” blessings for occasions (i.e. Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, etc.), and a “praise” worship was held on the third Sunday in most months of the year. “Joyous Light” was offered on the 3rd Saturday of the month and a healing service was offered on the 1st Saturday as well as the 5th Sunday of the month.

We participated in two ecumenical services. We were a part of “Worship in the Park” with 5 other churches in the Ashippun area which was held in conjunction with the Ashippun Firemen’s picnic in July. During Lent, we again participated in the Wednesday evening ecumenical Lenten rotation.

Our Sunday School children (ages 4 through 5th grade) sang during worship with a song which was relative to their Sunday School rotation. They also sang on Easter Sunday which has not happened in many years.

Special highlights this past year:

- A very successful Vacation Bible School with VBS Sunday.
- Our 2014 Confirmation class: Kristopher Bender, Hannah Fick, Colin Hautala, Megan Radder, Lauryn Slade, Krista Stewart, Catherine VanLare, and Andrew Wiegel.
- Our 2015 Confirmation class: Alan Cameron, Devin Dunn, Lauren Hautala, Gabe Hoffmann, Miranda Parker, Peyton Roraff, Rachel Roth, and Jordyn Sutrick.
- Our 4th grader First Communicant class: Madison DeBack, Payton DeBack, Cameron Meier, Garrett Monis, Alaina Roth, Matthew Siegrist, and Braden Wetzel.
- “God’s Work, Our Hands” Sunday where we went out into the community after worship services and did

“Good Deeds”.

- Christmas Eve family service at 4:00 P.M. had 24 battery operated candles used for safety; service at 7:00 P.M. used the little lit candles. Christmas Day service was at 9:00 A.M.
- Easter & Holy Week had First Communion on Maundy Thursday, a Tenebrae service on Good Friday, an Easter Vigil on Saturday, and an early service at 7:00 A.M. and a service at 9:00 A.M. with processional, special music, Sunday School singing, and an Easter choir at 9:00 A.M.

A “Thank You” goes out to all our Assisting Ministers under the leadership of Jane Christenson, the members that serve on the Altar Guild under the leadership of Liz Laack, the acolytes (and their parents) that are scheduled by Tiffany Brewer. This all included under Music and Worship Committee. Other members of Music and Worship include Wally and Sandy Friedl, Sue Laubenheimer, Pastor Matt, and Clara Birkel. Please consider being an Assisting Minister, being a member of the Altar Guild, or taking part in worship as “special” music. We are always open to any suggestions that you have to improve our worship services.

Respectfully submitted,
Clara Birkel, Chair

Report from Youth Education Committee

The St. Olaf Youth Education Committee had another successful and eventful year in 2014. Committee members continually sought to plan and improve programs such as Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, the Christmas Program, Rally Day, and a third grade Bible class. This committee's focus included preschool through sixth grade children. Reviewing the past year will provide new ideas and insights for the upcoming year.

Sunday School is an important and major focus of the Youth Education Committee. This past year was the ninth year of rotational Sunday School. The feedback and enthusiasm continue to be positive to this style of curriculum. The children were able to learn a new Bible story every four weeks and had the opportunity to participate in different types of classroom experience each week during the story's rotation. They may have had a science, games, cooking, or craft experience that related to the Bible story. Occasionally the children will sing during a church service. The song is chosen to complement the lesson that has been studied during the rotation. In an attempt to encourage weekly attendance we added "Bible Bucks." Students receive a Bible Buck every time s/he attends class and then will be able to redeem those for special items.

Along with Bible stories, additional programs continue to be a part of the Sunday School curriculum--Together in Faith and UFF-DA. Together in Faith separates the children by age/grade to learn a "life" lesson with the involvement of a parent, grandparent, godparent or sponsor during the 2-3 week lesson. It is a wonderful opportunity for the children and adults to grow in character and faith. UFF-DA incorporates all generations of faith in St. Olaf to support the youth in developing positive character assets. Several students and adults took crosses and plaques they had made to the Shorehaven Nursing Home for church service and singing. These programs continue to be instrumental in growing and nurturing faith in our youth.

Another program supporting faith education is the Vacation Bible School. This program continues to be successful and fun for the children. Melissa Meier and Laura Lee were coordinators for this event last year. Over 60 children and 30 volunteers were involved. The dates of the program remained during the first full week in August. Attendance continues to be fairly consistent from previous years. We again offered families the opportunity to eat dinner in the Fellowship Hall before VBS began. There was a minimal fee for the week (\$5.00 per person) and students were required to have an adult with them during dinner. This was quite a success, serving 30-40 people each night, and received very positive feedback. The dinner will continue to be included in the VBS program. Finally, we were also able to "share God's love" and a few adults from Zion Church also volunteered to help make it a success.

The last program led by the Youth Education Committee was the Christmas program. Claudine and Karl Scheife volunteered to direct the program of a traditional Nativity performance of the birth of Jesus. Children from nursery ages to adults participated in the program. The money collected was donated to Milwaukee Children's Hospital. A reception was also provided by the Education Committee following the program.

While the education programs dominate the Youth Education Committee's focus, there are other events/programs that the committee initiates. A Bible class was offered through the Together in Faith program. Children are presented with the Bible in third grade, and the class provided an introduction to the Bible. It is important for the children to have the "tool" such as the Bible but they also must be taught how to use it. Fourth Graders prepared for First Communion by taking a 5 week class taught by Pastor Matt. The students were able to decorate their own communion chalice through Creative License in Hartford. Clara Birkel also helped prepare the students with acolyte training and learning about the Altar Guild.

Rally Day was another event coordinated by the Education Committee. Children and adults enjoyed the Rally Day event and it helped foster an enthusiasm for the 2014-2015 Sunday School year.

The 2014 year was eventful and successful. The Youth Education Committee will look to the Nesting Vision to guide the decisions and planning for the 2015 year.

Nesting Vision:

1) Creative & Interactive Bible Teaching:

Kids experience, rather than hearing about the Bible.

2) Fun & Engaging:

Sunday school children will laugh, smile, play, sing, challenge themselves and want to invite their friends and family.

3) Welcoming & Safe:

Sunday School children will feel welcome with open arms and physically, emotionally and spiritually safe.

4) Discipleship:

Sunday school children will learn from, appreciate and look up to the adult members and older kids that they interact with at St. Olaf's.

Respectfully Submitted,
The Youth Education Committee

Report from Adult Education Committee

"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"
John 14:6 (NIV)

The members of the Adult Education Committee are Marilyn Carlson, Truman Schultz, Cindy Schlieve (chair), and Pastor Matt.

Several opportunities were presented for members to participate in study programs this past year.

- In September 2014 we offered a study that looked at forgiveness and grace through faith led by Pastor Matt.
- In October we again began using a book entitled "{Crazy Book} A Not-So-Stuffy Dictionary of Biblical Terms", written by Rolf A. Jacobson, Karl N. Jacobson, and Hans H. Wiersma. In the introduction to the book the authors write: "This little book introduces the reader to the places, books, and most importantly to the people of the Bible. The entries here are short. That is on purpose. They don't contain everything that the Bible has to say - just a taste." The study will continue as often as is possible to help all those interested to learn more about the Bible and to learn that reading the Bible is something that should be a vital part of our lives.
- In January and February 2015 Pastor Matt presented a study using the book Wellbeing: "The Five Essential Elements" written by Tom Rath and Jim Harter. Wellness is not just about our physical health, but also about our spiritual health and how we interact with God and the world around us using the gifts we have been given, finding our strengths, and using those strengths in our daily lives.

Please continue to offer suggestions to the Adult Education Committee so that programs that are of interest to you may be presented.

Thank you to all who have helped in creating the programs and given us ideas. I would especially like to thank Pastor Matt for taking over the leadership of this committee since early January due to the health concerns for my granddaughter Layla, and our focus becoming solely on her and doing whatever needed to be done for her and our son's family. Thank you everyone for all of the prayers, thoughts, and cards of love and consideration for our family during this time. We truly appreciate all the love and support we have received.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy J. Schlieve, Chair

"Ask and it will be given you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to he who knocks, the door will be opened."
Matthew 7:7-8 (NIV)

Thrivent Financial Report

Funds from the East Dodge County Chapter for Thrivent Financial, of which St. Olaf is a part, were used to provide crosses to the young people who were confirmed on April 26, 2015. A cake was also purchased for the confirmands and their families for the dinner that was held on April 24, 2015. Amy Hoffmann prepared the wonderful cake again this year. Thank you, Amy.

Though Thrivent does not offer some of the shared funds that were previously enjoyed by congregations, I believe there are some opportunities that can be pursued. For those members who have Thrivent policies, please check with Thrivent and make sure that you have listed St. Olaf as your home congregation.

This will be my final report regarding Thrivent Financial since I am no longer eligible to be a congregational advocate. If anyone who is a Thrivent policy holder would like to represent St. Olaf in Thrivent matters, please contact me and I can connect you with the East Dodge County Chapter leadership. I also have many years of material, some of which might be helpful. Currently, Dawn Christ is the only congregational advocate for St. Olaf, and it is recommended that each congregation have at least two congregational advocates. Please consider offering your time (it's not really a lot of time) and talent in helping St. Olaf in this manner.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy J. Schlieve
St. Olaf Congregational Advocate

Report from Outreach Committee