

**Semi-Annual Meeting  
June 12, 2016  
Information Packet**

**REV. PAUL A. KRUEGER**

Vibrant ministry has taken place in the first half of 2016, punctuated by several things:

1. With Pastor Dan accepting a call to Immanuel Lutheran Church in Grand Forks, Part-time staff members have been added to assist with OSLC ministries.
  - Brittany Busch has focused upon OSLC Children's Ministry. Her heart-felt compassion for children to grow to know Jesus has been contagious in the development of children's ministry teams for Sunday School, Wednesday's GLo, and Vacation Bible School. These programs continue to thrive and grow under her leadership as shown by a VBS pre-registration of 114 children (so far)
  - Betsy Jones has been added to provide administrative assistance with a focus communication. Her diligent work has been seen in OSLCnow Publications, the OSLC Website, OSLC's FaceBook page and other essential communication areas, including video work for the congregation. Her intentional efforts can be seen in the strong new member class numbers and the invitational spirit of our congregation.
  - Rev. Jones and Rev. Busch added into the preaching schedule for relieve some of the weekly duties preaching duties.
  - Beginning August 1<sup>st</sup>, OSLC will receive a Vicar (intern pastor) from the St. Louis seminary who will assist with Pastoral Ministry duties for 2016-17.
2. An Invitational Focus and New Member growth.
  - In the first half of the year we invited our membership to have an invitational focus. Our church family responded with the result that we had a large Foundations of Faith class with more than 40 new members joining our church family on June 5<sup>th</sup>. We are grateful to the Lord for continued growth. And look forward to strong worship attendance
3. Discipleship Growth
  - OSLC's "myLife" began. myLife leads a person through and gives practical helps to the four phases of discipleship. The seminar "myLife with Jesus" has been offered two times so far in 2016 with strong attendance and enthusiastic participation. The next two courses, "myLife in Ministry" and "myLife in Mission" will be offered this fall.
4. In addition to Children's and Youth Ministries Men's and Women's Ministries have also flourished in the first half of 2016.
  - Men's Ministries have grown through the work of OSLC's Board of Elders
  - Women's Ministries have had strong participation as a result of the Women's Ministry Team. (More is found in other areas of this report)
5. The Dual-Parish Relationship with Trinity Lutheran Church in Tolley, ND continues to flourish
  - Weekly worship is provided by our Pastoral Staff
  - OSLC Members will be joyfully assisting in Trinity's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on June 26<sup>th</sup>.
6. Celebrating the Generosity of OSLC Members
  - As a church family we can joyfully celebrate strong debt reduction in the first half of 2016. Both our church mortgage and our parking lot note have been significantly reduced. Since Jan. 1, 2015, \$291,000 has been applied to our parking lot loan putting the congregation on track to pay the loan completely off by the end of this year.
  - The first four months of the year saw above average weekly giving, again showing the generosity of our church family.

- The summertime slump, however, has begun to occur. We encourage you to continue to be generous with your giving as we move through the summer. Giving can also be done online or through the OSLC App for your smart phone.

We are blessed to be a part of a wonderful church family. Thank you for your faithfulness to the Savior and to your commitment to your church family.

## REV. ANDY BUSCH

### February

- February brings 3 regular events with youth: Pizza Sales, Winter Retreat and Sweetheart Banquet
- We made \$480 from the Take-N-Bake pizza sales that went toward the Winter Retreat
- We had over 20 participants this year. Mostly due to inviting the confirmation students this year. Stephanie Schoenrock, Kelly Hayhurst, Rick Jones and Mark Haugen attended as well and they were all helpful. Rick led an evening devotion on Saturday night.
- The Sweetheart Banquet was amazing for a number of reasons. Over 40 couples attended this year, which made for a fun environment for fellowship in a non-worship setting. Steve and Roxanne Sprague donate all the food for the event which brought in over \$1700 (around \$900 last year). The majority of this will go toward the National Youth Gathering. NYG participants helped serve food, and their parents helped in the kitchen (Mike and Wendi Johnson, Craig Klebe, Chris Ramses).

### March

- March 4 we held our annual Trivia Night. Trivia master Rick Jones put together questions, Johnsons, Haugens, Ramses, Klebes, and Timms helped set up, do decorations and sell concessions. Over 70 participants came. There were 3 teams of youth and 1 team of Baptists. Chad and Angie Thompson provided a taco bar from Qdoba. Angie and Kim Haugen got some incredible donations (someone walked away with a \$200 car detailing gift). This event really showed me how incredibly critical these families are in making events like this successful. We raised over \$1,000 (\$575 last year), mostly for the NYG.
- Our NYG participant list is finalized: Tyler and Joel Johnson, Tina Timm, Keaton Erickson, Megan and Craig Klebe, Alyssa and Chris Ramses, Leah and Sarah Haugen, Carol and Hudson Dahly, MacKenzie Dankers, and Pastor Andy will be going to New Orleans in July. Money has been raised already and the Board of Youth is looking at making a significant contribution to help such a large group go to this event (we sent just 3 youth 3 years ago). The Board of Youth decided to sponsor \$500 to each participant to lower the cost of travel.
- We had 16 participants for our annual Crosswalk. This time the event began with a news interview with KMOT that aired on Good Friday. We carried a cross from Magic City to OSLC stopping at stations along the way for readings and reflection.
- We had over 40 egg bakes donated, and more than enough orange juice and muffins. Once again being a part of a congregation that supports its youth ministry is critical to its success. Easter Breakfast simply could not happen without the support and donations. Confirmation and High School students helped set up and serve on Sunday. Amy Krueger, Candice and Robin Saunders, and Brent Dellaff were really the adults that were in charge. We raised over \$700 (over \$900 last year) for our summer trips: Sonshine and the National Youth Gathering

### April

- April 6 was the "Barnabas Buddy Reveal." Since Confirmation began this fall Barnabas Buddies have been leaving encouraging notes and gifts to Confirmation students. The students don't know who their Barnabas is until the evening of the 6th where they will "meet" for the first time. The desire is that some inter-generational ministry opportunities will spark and the relationships will continue even after the Reveal.

## June

- We have 2 Pizza Ranch fundraisers coming up in June. June 2 and 30 from 5-9pm we hope to see a big turn out to help raise money for the National Youth Gathering and for our Sonshine trip.

## This Summer

- OSLC will again be attending the Sonshine Festival in Somerset, WI. This is a Christian music festival that youth have attended a number of years. We camp out, cook our own food, and enjoy a great variety of musical styles from Christian musicians. We don't have a participant list for the event yet, but I expect 12-20 will be attending.
- NYG- as noted above we have 14 participants going to New Orleans for the National Youth Gathering. The event is July 16-20 and will be a gathering of 20-30,000 participants in New Orleans.
- I am still planning on doing "GPS," a summer youth group for 7th-8th grade students. We will meet 2x a month on Mondays for some games, snacks and devotion.
- NUTS will continue to meet in the summer, but we may just be taking July off due to the NYG, Sonshine, and family vacation plans. NUTS will not meet on Sunday mornings this summer.
- Not being in School I will be working more at church including having office time and some preaching.
- July 1-9 I will be the "Pastor of the Week" at Camp Perkins in Idaho. This will mean doing Bible studies and worship with students and campers for a week. My family will be traveling with me.

# DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRIES

## Music/Worship:

Maintaining excellence in music is the #1 Key Result Area in my job description. The expectation is that I manage and develop an ever greater excellence in the areas of music and worship so that the overall ministry of OSLC glorifies God and touches people's lives. In addition to the many day to day, week to week responsibilities, here are some of the specifics for June-Dec.

**Choir:** The OSLC Choir will be presenting an Easter cantata this year. I will again be planning a choir retreat

The F.R.O.G.S. (Fully Relying on God Singers) completed its 2nd year and we now have 18 members from grades 3-12. They sing approximately one a month.

**Band:** eleven AM continues to lead music for worship services at both the 9:30 and 11:00 times  
Eleven AM provided music for the Easter service at the DBGR, the Lenten services and several funerals

**Worship:** I strive to support the theme set by the scriptures as I put together the worship services. We use one of the liturgies from the hymnal once per month at the 8:15 service. Karen Atwood plays piano almost every Sunday at the 8:15 service, so HUGE thanks to her for her servant's heart.

Select the hymns for our Tolley congregation and send them to Loretta at least 2 weeks in advance of the service

One of my weekly duties is to input all the information into Easy Worship so that people can follow the service on the projection screens.

**LHLH:** I assist with the music for chapel on Tuesday mornings and spend 15 minutes in 4 classrooms on Wednesday afternoon teaching music. The kids prepare and present a concert for their parents/families twice a year.

**Community:** Hosted a concert by Nathan Hance in May. Publicity included community media  
Planning a big celebration on June 14<sup>th</sup> which features Link Union. Both the congregation and the community will be invited to this event.

## Small Group Ministries:

Small Group Ministry is the #2 Key Result Area in my job description. The expectation is that I develop, organize and manage an effective, comprehensive small group ministry at OSLC that draws people to involvement, and encourages groups of believers to grow deeper in their connections with Jesus Christ and with one another. Here are some of the specific goals for June-Dec:

There are currently 8 groups meeting.

I am currently working with Pastor Krueger on a comprehensive discipleship series called OSLC mylife. One of the outcomes of *Session G1-Grow mylife with Jesus* is to encourage each participant to join/begin a small group Bible study. This is our plan to begin the growth of small groups at OSLC. Our first G1 class was held April 10<sup>th</sup>. The next one is scheduled for June 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **Volunteer Ministry:**

Management of volunteer ministry teams in the #3 Key Result Area in my job description. The expectation is that I develop and effectively manage teams of volunteers who will help meet both short term and long range needs within the congregation. I like to think of this as helping people discover the gifts God gave them and put them to work in service to God's people. Here are some of the specific goals on which I focused for June-Dec:

Working with Betsy to prepare policies/procedures document for each individual ministry

Working with Betsy to prepare a booklet of OSLC ministries

L2-myLife of Ministry is scheduled for Aug 28<sup>th</sup>. Cheryl Coyle and I teach this class which helps participants discover their God-given gifts and talents, and connects them to an appropriate volunteer ministry.

Provide names of volunteers to Grace Giuliani for the nursery

Continue to identify and schedule people to read scripture on Sunday mornings

Schedule greeters

Assist in identifying specific people for specific needs

A Volunteer Ministry Fair will be held this fall

### **People Care:**

People Care is my very broad Key Result Area #4. The expectation here is that I show the care and concern of the Savior to people in one on one settings as the Lord arranges them. Almost every day, God provides an opportunity for me to share His love with someone who stops in the church office. I spend time listening and praying with whomever He sends my way. Additionally, here are 2 specific areas I have set for myself in this area:

**Women's Ministry:** Women will grow in their relationship to their Savior and one another.

Dec 5, 2015 – The Greatest Gift II – 36 women in attendance

Jan 22nd – P (painting) M (music) S (snacks and spiritual devotion) 42 women in attendance

May 13-15 – Women's Retreat: Lavender Springs Spa – 27 women in attendance. It was an amazing retreat!

### **Stephen Ministry:**

In 2008, OSLC enrolled in Stephen Ministry. Our Stephen Ministers work alongside our pastors to care, encourage, and provide ongoing emotional and spiritual support to people who are going through a difficult time of crisis. We currently have 5 active Stephen Ministers. Our Stephen Ministers prepared and served one of the meals for VBS this year. Regan Graham will be attending a Stephen Leader training course this year. Barbara Bethel, one of our Stephen Ministers passed away – she will be greatly missed. Another of our Stephen Ministers plans to move out of state soon. I will look at scheduling another training session this fall.

I serve here with a humble and thankful heart.

Bonnie Rennich, Director of Music and Congregational Ministries

**“My purpose is that they be encouraged in heart and united in love**

**. . . . in order that they may know Christ.”**

**Colossians 2:2**

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY – BRITTANY BUSCH

We had close to 80 kids in this years Christmas program. We made 130 treat bags to pass out to children at the Wednesday evening service that the Children sang at—all were given out. This is so exciting, because that means there were 130 children at that Wednesday night service in December. WOW! That's exciting; it also is very revealing on what the needs are in our church... KID AND FAMILY PROGRAMS!!!

GLO started off between 40-50 kids each Sunday and tapered down to 25-40 kids each week. I did speak to a lot of the families about this, and come January, lots of sports, music and other activities start to become more of a commitment. I do think that Wednesday night church is still very important, but it is very hard for families to commit to that night. I would say it was still a successful year. We are on 4 year program, starting in the Old Testament with Genesis, and going through Revelation. So this year we only got to Judges, ending with Gideon, with the exception of Christmas and Easter. I've heard really great things about this, and I think the kids who come faithfully are really learning the stories, and how they are a part of a larger timeline. The kids who are a little more random in their attendance, or visit a week here and there still learn the story, and aren't really missing out on anything different than they would a yearly program. The nights that were our highest attendance were game nights. This says to me that maybe we need more relaxed activities thrown in more often, which would make having a gym to play in AWESOME!

Sunday School was a great success. Nancy Graham is to be thanked for much of that success. There seemed to be more of a team aspect among the teachers, they knew what was expected as well as knowing that they were appreciated. Nancy and I continually checked in with them throughout the year as well as verbally appreciating them constantly. A survey went around to all the teachers asking for their response to many different questions. So far only one response came in, and it was very positive. Hopefully many of these teachers will return next year, and I think it's very likely most of them will with the exception of one, but only because her daughter is getting older and she's been doing it for many years. She team taught with someone who wants to teach more often, so with that age it actually worked out perfectly. We are looking into possibility of a new curriculum from GROUP. Again, the Sunday School teachers were incredible, so they put a lot of time into adding their own activities to the curriculum. However, there are curriculums out there that are more helpful, more relevant and very still very Biblical.

Vacation Bible School is just around the corner, and coming together nicely! It is exciting to see the amount of volunteers, donations and kids who have already preregistered. People are constantly asking how they can help, and overtime I go into my office, there's something new that someone has donated to the program. People who can't actually help with VBS have been helping ahead of time. It's been incredible, and such a large undertaking, but so much fun!

## LITTLE HANDS LOVING HEARTS

The children are soon to start their transition for the next school year. Throughout the summer, as ages, learning levels and motor skills grow, the staff being preparing the children for their move on to the next level classroom. We are blessed to have Karla Ross and Kelsey Opdahl as leaders of the center who have remained dedicated to LHLH since the doors have opened. There are several other staff members who have also been around since the beginning; I don't know what we would do without them.

A few weeks ago, Ward County dropped in for an unannounced visit (as is to be expected from time to time.) They had nothing but positive praise for the staff and center. They stated that LHLH receives the highest scores in the area for child development centers. That is something to boast about. We continue to remain at capacity with children and unfortunately have to turn down callers looking for child care nearly every day.

We had a successful fun night/fund raiser. We raised over \$2500 to assist one of our own congregation families with medical and travel cost needs. It still continues to amaze me how the parents of LHLH are

always eager to jump in and help. They pay us for the service of child care, yet they are still willing to donate their time, money and many tangible items for fund raisers and things needed to keep our center top notch. Members of our congregation deserve a big thank you also for their continued support for the center and our events.

LHLH along with some of our congregation members recently purchased a new AED for the church. The existing AED is now outdated and new batteries and patches can no longer be obtained from the company. Although we hope we never need to use it, it is a requirement to have one due to the child center being in the building. But in all reality the other end of the church is much more likely to need it. If you have never noticed it before, the AED is located in the white metal box on the wall in between the bathrooms that are across from the kitchen. If you have any questions about the use of the AED, I am a CPR instructor and would be very happy to walk you through it. Luckily we have never needed to use it, but when the need arises, an AED can save a life and buy time until emergency medical services arrives.

The center continues to have employment opportunities, if you or anyone you know is interested in working with children at the center, please contact Karla or Kelsey at 852-5454

In His Service,  
Susann DeForest  
LHLH Board Chair

## **Ballot for 6-12-16 Semi-Annual Meeting**

### **Item #1 - The Election of the Nominating Committee**

The members listed below have been nominated to serve on Our Savior Lutheran Church's Nominating Committee for 2016. The Nominating Committee will work alongside Bonnie Rennich (Director of Congregational Ministries) to obtain names for potential members for the 2017 Governing Board and Board of Elders. Four (4) members will be elected.

Susann DeForest

Patti Detlaff

Paul Dockter

Kelly Hayhurst

Chanda Klug

Terry Voeller