

## Our Saviour's 2018 Year in Review

### January

- The year began with the Installation of Council, LMM and WELCA Officers installed January 14.
- A Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was held with opening worship on January 18 at Trinity United Methodist Church. January 23 we worshipped at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. The closing worship was at Transfiguration Lutheran Church January 25. A reception followed each worship service.
- A Quarterly Service for Healing was held January 31.
- Memorials and Gifts purchased 2 new Christmas trees for the sanctuary. The old trees were donated to Habitat ReStore.
- The search for a new Bell Choir Director began.
- The pot holes in the parking lot were patched by the Property Team

### February

- Melodie Capole was hired as our new Bell Choir Director.
- A survey was conducted to gain input from the congregation to assist Council in establishing goals at their upcoming Council Retreat.
- The Property Team installed Exterior Fellowship Hall and Church Office signs to direct visitors to those areas.
- The Youth prepared pots of delicious homemade soup for Super Bowl Sunday, February 4. Containers were sold to the congregation and over \$1400 was collected and sent to God's Helping Hands.
- 55 people attended the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 13 with everyone enjoying a few rounds of Bingo.
- The Social Ministry Team and volunteers delivered 10 Valentine's Day Bags to our members with special difficulties who can not actively participate in the life of the church.
- Ash Wednesday services began on February 14 followed by weekly Lenten Services through March 21. For the first time Lenten Worship Services were jointly held with Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church and Faith Lutheran Church. Congregations remained at their respective churches while Pastor Henderson, Pastor Roof, and Pastor Willhide rotated among the three churches.
- The conference room renovations contract was awarded to Christian Builders.

### March

- An off-site Council Retreat was held March 3 at the Phillips Market Center at the State Farmer's Market. Survey results were discussed and goals set in the areas of Worship and Vitality & Development.
- A Spring Church Clean-Up Day was held March 10.
- Panic bars (emergency-exit releases) were installed on all 4 exterior Sanctuary doors for added security and safety.
- Gattis Pro Audio updated the Listen LP system and existing audio equipment.
- A motion detector light was installed at the office door.
- Holy Week Services included Vespers with a Service of Healing that was held at Our Saviour in which Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church and Faith Lutheran Church were invited to participate. The field ed student at MTLC gave the homily.
- The Rebekah Circle hosted the Annual Easter Egg Hunt March 24.

### April

- Pioneer Health and Mission rented space for their weekly worship in the Chapel on Saturdays.
- Jadon Stanek, a trumpeter, provided special music for Easter, April 1.

- The Social Ministry Team and volunteers delivered 11 Easter Lilies to our members with special difficulties.
- About 25 people participated in the Spring Health Screening which was held April 9.
- Council members attended an introductory Cultivating Leadership & Vitality Event April 14 to learn about cultivating vitality in our church community.
- An *"In As Much"* Day of Service Shred Event was held April 21. 23 volunteers collected 15,000 lbs. of paper, approximately 100 lbs. of non-perishable food items, along with \$266 in cash donations for God's Helping Hands.
- The annual WELCA Retreat was held April 27-29 at Camp Kinard. 23 ladies attended. Cameron Circle was hostess and the devilish program was provided by Rev. Dr. Mary Havens.

## May

- Memorials & Gifts submitted an article which was published in the May Grapevine listing needs in the church for which memorial and gifts donations can be directed. This article will be printed in the Grapevine bi-annually.
- The Lutheran Men in Mission's project collected 20 twin-bed sets for the Central Midlands Transitional Retreat Center for Veterans.
- Council members attended a follow-up Cultivating Leadership & Vitality Event May 19 and signed a covenant with the Synod to continue with the Farming Church process for its 2-year duration. Each church was assigned a coach to help them through the process.
- On May 20, Pastor Lance and interested church members met for lunch at Grecian Gardens to discuss ideas to expand the Evangelism Team.
- Parking lot lights were placed on a timer to preclude unnecessary use/cost.

## June

- Pastor Henderson and Charles Nicholson attended the South Carolina Synod Assembly at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center June 1-2.
- Linda Griffith represented Our Saviour at the SC WELCA Convention June 8-9 at the Redeemer Lutheran Church in Columbia.
- Adam Fingerlin, Claire Fingerlin, Francis Fingerlin, Rebecca Fingerlin, Henry Henderson, and Pastor Henderson attended the ECA Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas, June 27 - July 1.

## July

- The OSLC-WELCA Project coordinated by the Rebekah Circle received 58 personal hygiene bags for the Central Midlands Transition Retreat Center.
- Mt. Tabor, Our Saviour and Faith joined together for Vacation Bible School July 22-26 at Mt. Tabor. The adult classes were taught by Pastor Henderson.

## August

- August 5 was the kick off for the Operation Christmas Child Project.
- Memorials and Gifts repaired the gold chalice.
- The first Farming Church webinar was held August 9. Council met August 19 for a Farming Church Faith Work Session.
- Conference Room Dedication was held August 19. This project was completed through many generous memorial and gift contributions to the Conference Room Fund. The designer was Richard Bryant and Don Lawson of Christian Builders was our contractor.
- Lutheran Men in Mission hosted "Ladies Night" at Shealy's Barbecue on August 21.
- Blessing of Bookbags, and the students, teachers, and administrators who carry them was held August 19.

- Three backpacks filled with school supplies requested by each of their teachers for the start of the school year were presented to Principal Jim LeBlanc and Assistant Principal Laura Clark of Saluda River Academy of the Arts.
- Living in the Light of Our Saviour notecards and envelopes (\$5 for pk/10) were sold on August 5 and 12. Sales were brisk. See Kelly Heid, Marie Lybrand, or Pam Hanfland for future purchases.

## September

- The Property Team painted the exterior of the double doors into the Narthex and the exterior of the single door at rear entrance near staff offices.
- Council met September 24 for a Farming Church Trust Work Session.
- On September 30 a special worship service was conducted by the youth. Information from the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas was shared, followed by a BBQ sandwich lunch to say thank-you to the congregation for its support.

## October

- WELCA Sunday, coordinated by the Lydia Circle, was held October 14. The Rev. Dr. Mary Havens led the worship and delivered the sermon. Ladies of the congregation served as choir members, ushers, acolyte, and crucifer.
- 1200 Flyers were sent to residents of Westover Acres and Quail Hollow to attend Welcome Home Sunday October 21. Harpist, Jean Senn, provided special music. Dan Hanfland narrated the liturgy. Around 125 people attended the wonderful covered dish lunch, which followed the worship service.
- Council met on October 22 for a Farming Church Leadership Work Session.
- The Service and Charitable Works Team organized our first Trunk or Treat, October 28. 18 cars were decorated with over 80 children participating.
- Bradley Miller who played the trumpet along with some of the hymns provided special music for Reformation Sunday, October 28.
- RightNow Media was purchased to provide electronic access for learning This medium is being used at Wednesday evening Bible study and Tuesday morning Bible study and can be accessed by individuals or groups. Contact Pastor Lance for more info.
- The Property Team repaired the church narthex emergency lights. Various lighting in the church was replaced as needed.

## November

- An All Saints' Day Remembrances Service was held November 4.
- 100 boxes were packed at the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Packing Party November 11.
- Council met November 13 for a Cluster Gathering Farming Church Webinar.
- The Property Team replaced an electric stove element in the Kitchen.
- Around 40 people attended the Stewardship Breakfast November 18 where they signed up for the 2019 ministries they wanted to serve. The Congregational Meeting followed the breakfast where Jim Garner, David Griffith, Beverly Nivens and Elizabeth Shealy were elected as our new 2019 Council Members.
- Sermons were taped and placed online for electronic access. Go to <http://gointhismightofyours.blogspot.com> and "follow by email" to have the sermons emailed to you each week.
- The Community Thanksgiving Service was held November 20 at All Saints Episcopal
- Memorials and Gifts purchased reserved pew signs for the sanctuary.

## December

- Gift cards were given to 6 college students during exam time.
- Our Saviour participated in a Habitat for Humanity building project December 1.
- December 8, Saluda Gardens sponsored the Backyard Christmas Market in the Fellowship Hall.
- Approximately 60 people attended the Christmas Program, hosted by the Rebekah Circle, December 9. The Reverend Jacqueline Utley performed "An Illustrative Sermon", a biblical performance taken from Old Testament Scriptures, I Kings & II Kings. Special music was performed by Rodney Stone, Bradley Miller, Mickayla Hamilton and Cherokee Osler.
- Newly-elected council members attended December 9 Council Meeting. New team leaders and officers were chosen.
- Heyward Wessinger and neighbor Jim Gilfoyle installed fabric tablecloth storage racks in the kitchen pantry.
- 33 LMM members and guests, plus the 6 entertainers attended the Lutheran Men annual Christmas Party that was held December 10. The Called Quartet, a group of men from Lexington Baptist Church, along with their bass guitarist and keyboard player, performed gospel and Christmas music and a rousing rendition of the National Anthem.
- A joint Longest Night Service with Mt. Tabor, Faith and Mt Hermon was held at Our Saviour, December 21.
- The Social Ministry Team and volunteers delivered 8 Christmas Bags to our members with special difficulties.
- Memorials and Gifts purchased vocal and bell choir robes.
- A Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship was held December 24.
- A Lessons and Carols Service was held in the Fellowship Hall, December 30.
- A "noisy offering" was collected December 30 to purchase items requested by the guidance counselor at SRAA to help take care of students' needs at school.

Our Saviour continues to be a very active and a supportive congregation. In addition to all of the above activities and services, we continue to offer Bible Study classes on Tuesday mornings and Wednesday evenings, the community free lunch the last Wednesday of the month, Chat and Snack on Sunday mornings for fellowship, meals and cards for the sick, shut-in and bereaved, as well as special services and outreach. *God's Work. Our Hands.* is always in progress at Our Saviour. On behalf of the Congregational Council, thanks to EVERYONE for your commitment and service. May God's peace and blessings be with you and yours all through the year!

**Compiled by Pam Hanfland, 2018 Council President**