



The Evangel

Vol. 36, Edition 10

October 2019

**Our Saviour
Lutheran Church**
*is a congregation of the
Indiana-Kentucky Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church
in America.*

*We welcome all
to share in life with Christ
as a community
of faith in mission.*

OSLC's Vision & Mission

*God calls us to be a community of
discipleship for all, making Christ's
love real in our daily lives.*

*Grow in faith and Christian calling
Love and serve God and neighbor
Proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ*

Worship

9:00 A.M.
11:15 A.M.

*Attended nursery available
on Sunday mornings*

Fellowship

10:00 A.M.

Sunday School

10:15–11:00 A.M.

*Steve Albertin, Interim Pastor
Michael Vinson, Campus Pastor*

Some Thoughts on Stewardship

Stewardship is about more than money. Our use of money and all our other possessions is an important part of being a follower of Jesus. The word “steward” comes from the Anglo-Saxon term “sty warden,” the person who took care of the pig sty! The term has evolved to describe anyone who is the keeper of another person’s possessions. Steward describes our relationship with God the creator. It helps us to see that God has “created me and all that exists” (Luther’s Small Catechism, Apostles’ Creed, explanation of the First Article). And all that we are and all that we have, come from God as blessings. As followers of Jesus Christ, it is our responsibility to care for and use these blessings wisely. This includes our time, relationships, talents, passions, energy, lifestyle, the environment and money. The money part includes the sharing of our financial resources to support God’s work through the church.

When our use of language about stewardship is centered on the need to meet the budget of the congregation — the need to raise sufficient funds to cover the bills — we can lose sight of what it means to be good stewards. We might begin to think more about the total needed and “*How much is my fair share?*” We might find ourselves wrestling with what we think we can afford to give in light of the rising costs of everything else and how much we have left over. And for some people, decisions about giving can become based on whether or not they agree with the pastor, the congregation council or some other group or individual within the congregation. How do we reverse this trend and foster an “Attitude of Gratitude?”

Looking more closely at the term “steward,” we find that it has its most direct etymological roots in the Anglo-Saxon “stygwærden,” the sty warden noted earlier. But the concept behind the term goes back into the first century to the Greek word, “*economos*.” In the world of the writers of the New Testament letters, the *economos* was the servant or slave who served the owner of an estate as the chief caretaker of almost everything the owner called his or her own.



knowing the *economia* of the owner was almost like knowing the mind of the owner, the deepest intentions and greatest hopes of the owner.

*All that we are
and all that
we have, come
from God as
blessings.*

This caretaker was more than an obedient follower of “the household rules” (as some translators have rendered the term). Instead, the *economos* knew the “*economia*” of the owner, the over-all plan for the entire estate, both short-range and long-range. In a sense,

Continued on page 7

Why Make A Pledge?

Most of us think that the annual **pledge** is something we do for the church. However, what would we think if I said that the pledge is **a gift the church gives to us?**

We set budgets and make payment plans to make sure that the bills are paid on time. The house is important, so we make sure that the mortgage is paid. The car is important, so we make sure that the monthly car payment is on time. In the same way, the Church Council believes that we will want to make the mission of this congregation more than an “after thought” and a greater priority in our lives. The pledge is a tool that we can use to give our financial support of Our Saviour Lutheran Church the importance we want it to have in our lives.

The pledge also helps the leadership of Our Saviour plan the mission of the church. Our pledges will help the Finance Ministry Team better gauge the available financial resources for the coming year. Our pledge will play an important part in the planning of our mission and the creation of our budget for 2020. Our pledge will help all of us be better stewards of our financial resources.

At the center of our mission at Our Saviour is God’s generous love for the world in Jesus Christ. That good news enables us to do **GOD’S WORK** with **OUR HANDS** for the sake of the world. Everything we do with our time, talent and treasure reflects our faith in that good news. Even our financial support of Our Saviour Lutheran Church is a GET TO. Given all that God has done for us, making a pledge is a “no brainer.” It is a privilege and honor. It is like planning to go on a vacation to a special place or on a date with that special someone we love. We cannot imagine living our lives without doing it and planning for it.

As you complete your pledge for the coming year, prayerfully consider how you can make your financial support of Our Saviour Lutheran Church a priority in your life. Bring your pledge to worship on **Sunday, October 20**. As members of this congregation and part of the team, we GET TO carry the ball for Our Saviour Lutheran Church and make an eternal difference in the lives of people who matter to us and to God.

In His Service,
Steven E. Albertin
Interim Pastor



Call Update

Pastor Randy Schroeder has accepted the call to serve here at OSLC and will begin on December 1st. Please pray for Pastor Randy and his family as they make this transition. We look forward to his arrival! Look for more details in the November edition of *The Evangel*.



Feeling a chill during the service? Borrow a shawl for some warmth! There are “Borrow” and “Return” baskets in the narthex. If you would like to keep one, talk to Sara Behnke!

Times and Locations of Ministry Meetings

Property normally meets on the first Sunday of the month in the library, shortly after the 9:00 service ends. The meeting is moved to other Sundays as needed to accommodate the schedules of its members. If you are interested in attending the meetings or joining the property ministry team, please contact Matt Ohland at ohland@purdue.edu to be notified of changes in the regular meeting time. **Fellowship Events** meets in the Fellowship Hall on Servant Sundays. All are welcome! **Christian Education** meets in the Fellowship Hall following the 11:15 service on Servant Sundays. New members are welcome! **Operations** meets only when there is a need or crisis. If you would like to attend one of the meetings, please email Chris Johannsen and he will notify you of the time and place. **Finance** normally meets on Servant Sunday between the services in the pastor's office. **Social Justice Ministry** meets in the Fellowship Hall on Servant Sunday, on an as-needed basis. All are welcome! If you’d like to serve on **Evangelism**, talk to Angie Henderson or Scott Vana.

News and Notes

Baptismal Birthdays



October

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| John Mills | 1 |
| Mary Musselman | 21 |
| Calvin Gearhart | 23 |
| Vince Guido | 31 |

Council Highlights Aug. 28 & Sept. 11



- Motion to accept the Call Committee's recommendation of Pastor Randy Schroeder and to recommend him to the congregation, seconded, passed.
- Angie Henderson and Sue Larson will be painting the cry room. New carpet will be installed in the cry room, on the stairs and in the choir loft.
- Motion to approve OSCL as the venue for Russell Hillberry's upcoming wedding, officiated by his uncle (a retired ELCA pastor), seconded, passed.
- Motion to move the remaining Kitchen Funds (\$2,235.84) from the Capital Campaign Fund to the Kitchen Maintenance Fund in Bob's Bank and apply the remaining \$7,086.65 from the Capital Campaign to Mortgage Reduction, seconded, passed.

Many Ways To Give

As a hen and a pig walked down the road, they noticed a church sign advertising a breakfast of "Ham and Eggs!"

"That's nice," said the hen. "A chance for us to serve the congregation."

"Easy for you to say," replied the pig. "For you, it's a contribution; for me, it's a sacrifice!"

Versions of this story appear on inspirational websites, with comments about the chicken being *involved* in breakfast, while the pig is *committed*. Opinions differ, however, about which animal has the right idea. Some people warn against being the pig, sacrificing yourself for success; others say the chicken isn't all-in.

"People who give themselves to Jesus with a trusting abandon" are like pigs, says Rick Lawrence in *The Jesus-Centered Life* (Group). That total, "without reservation" commitment, he says, shows a willingness to give your life to Jesus — as he gave his for you.

On the other hand, giving consistently, day in and day out, even in what might seem to be small ways, also is valuable. Maybe the moral is not to judge others' stewardship because we all give differently.

The moment you wake up each morning, all your wishes and hopes for the day rush at you like wild animals. And the first job each morning consists of shoving it all back, in listening to that other voice, taking that other point of view, letting that other, larger, stronger, quieter life come flowing in.

—C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

Stewardship Column October 2019

Stewardship at OSCL

Our theme for the Stewardship Campaign this year is **OSLC** –

Our Spirit Living in Christ. October is the month when your church asks for your prayerful consideration of your contributions to our mission, both financial (your pledge and giving) and activity (Time and Talent Survey).

Our proposed budget for 2020 has been prepared and is included in the Stewardship Packet that will be in your church mailbox on Sunday, September 28th. If you haven't retrieved it, it will be mailed to your home.

We have extended a call to our new Pastor, and the budget reflects his compensation. The big surprise was the \$30,000 increase in health insurance costs. Pastor Will was on Medicare and only insuring himself. Pastor Randy isn't on Medicare and has a wife and children.

Our church can handle the increase, but we will need your financial help for the coming year. Please carefully consider how you might help your church.

Please prepare both your pledge card and Time and Talent Survey. Your pledges help us be good stewards of the gifts we receive and better plan our expenditures for the coming year. **Commitment Sunday, when we request that pledge cards and surveys be returned, will be Sunday, October 20th.**

Thank you for all that you do and thank you for your financial support that facilitates our ministry.

-- Steve Belter

seb@wintek.com

Our
Spirit
Living in
Christ

OSLC Fall Workday October 19 – please help as you are able with Fall maintenance. A list will be in the narthex to sign up for things to do. The work can be done anytime that's convenient for you, but if you can come October 19 between 9:00-2:00, you can join others working in fellowship, including lunch around noon. Sponsor a Rower for OSCL Fall Workday! If you can't help out at the Fall Workday, consider contributing toward renting a Purdue rower to work in your place! The rowers are "rented" for \$75 for five hours, but any contribution is welcome. To contribute toward sponsoring a rower, please leave a contribution in the offering plate and make sure to indicate that it's for Fall Workday Rowers. Checks should be made out to OSCL.

OCTOBER UPDATES



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THANK YOU!

God's Work Our Hands Sunday

We are so grateful for all the extra hands and participation in God's Work Our Hands Sunday on September 8th. Volunteers packed 127 school kits for Lutheran World Relief (LWR). Thank you to Ruth Ewbank and Sue Axtell for making the school bags; to everyone who donated supplies and Mike Ewbank for securing the large quantity of discounted school supplies, the Quilting Ladies (Mary Waltman, Judy Ohm, Renee Rasmy, Ruth Ewbank) for continuing to lead the Lutheran World Relief projects. **Join us for the blessing of the quilts and school kits on October 13th (at both services).**

Spiritual Listening Training

On Saturday, September 21st we had 19 participants from OSLC (including 3 Purdue students) attend the Spiritual Listening Training led by Rolf Lowenberg-DeBoer, City House Executive Director. Thank you to Rolf for traveling from Minnesota to share City House's ministry and training with OSLC. A huge thank you to Shelley Lowenber-DeBoer and Sue Larson for your financial support and help planning the event. If you would like to learn more about Spiritual Listening or to support City House, go to: <http://www.city-house.org>.



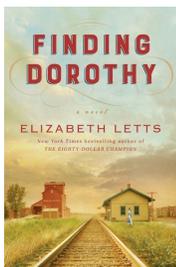
Contact Information for Angie Henderson, Director of Christian Education and Outreach

EMAIL: angie@osluth.org Church: 765-743-2931 Cell/Home: 402-213-9157

Reminder: Don't forget to sign-up for RightNow.org subscription. It is a free subscription for friends of OSLC (includes members and guests/friends/family) Email Angie Henderson any questions you may have to: angie@osluth.org. Here's the link to activate your subscription:

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Account/Invite/OurSaviour>

rightnow MEDIA



Finding Dorothy by Elizabeth Letts

A richly imagined novel that tells the story behind *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, the book that inspired the iconic film, through the eyes of author L. Frank Baum's intrepid wife, Maud--from the family's hardscrabble days in South Dakota to the Hollywood film set where she first meets Judy Garland.

Upcoming Events

- ⇒ **Sunday, October 6**
Youth Coffee Hour and
Servant Sunday
Ministry Teams Meet
- ⇒ **Sunday, October 13**
Adult Forum: Chris Parker
from Wernle Youth and
Family Treatment Center
- ⇒ **Sunday, October 13**
Blessing of the LWR Quilts
and School Kits
- ⇒ **Sunday, October 20**
Adult Forum: Pastor Mike
Vinson leads a discussion on
Racial Unity
- ⇒ **Sunday, October 27**
Adult Forum: Pastor Mike
Vinson leads a discussion on
Racial Unity

All are welcome to participate in a new Bible Study for this fall. Scott and Sandra Vana will lead a study on Philippians based on a 6-part video series, *Real Life*, by Pastor Akshay Rajkumar. In this series he addresses the discouragement and hopelessness that people face today and offers the hope of real joy, truth, freedom, and love that Paul writes about in Philippians. If we have Christ, we have *Real Life*.

The group will meet in the High School Classroom from **5:30 to 6:30 P.M.** on the following dates:

October 1 and 22
November 5 and 19
December 3

There will be light refreshments.

Social Justice Issues

Christ the King Lutheran Church's 6th Annual Hymn Festival of Healing and Hope will be **Friday, October 4 at 7:00 pm** for a time of singing, reflection, and prayer for people and their families who are struggling with mental health challenges. While there will be plenty of opportunities for congregational singing, the festival will also feature the choral music of Christ the King's Sanctuary Choir, The Ripple Effect, and select ensembles of the Notre Dame Children's Choir, along with vocalist Jamie Caporizo, and many others. This is a collaboration between Christ the King and Seasons Counseling of Michiana and ushers in National Mental Illness Awareness Week (October 6-12) by acknowledging the role that faith communities can play in the healing journeys of others. The event is free, family-friendly, and includes a light dessert reception after the festival. You can find plenty of parking in the rear of the church. All are welcome! If you have questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Hillary Doerries (C: 317-430-1942/W: 574-272-4306).

Hymn Festival of Healing & Hope

**Friday, October 4th
7 o'clock in the evening**

CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH SANCTUARY
17195 CLEVELAND ROAD, SOUTH BEND, INDIANA

This event is **free** and open to the public,
(574) 277-0274

WWW.SEASONS-COUNSELING.ORG/HYMN-FESTIVAL

We are keeping very busy here at the family center. Right now we have seven adults and 16 children in shelter, this is the largest group we've had so far! We are so thankful that we have this wonderful facility to provide services to so many families. Of course with this number of residents, we can always use supplies! Here is our current list:

Paper towel * Toilet paper * kid's juice boxes * healthy take and go snacks (breakfast bars, fruit snacks, etc)

Some of you may remember a former guest (quite a few years ago) Samuel Williams. He is a young man with severe medical issues and is currently living in a health care facility. He has no significant family members that are able to assist him with his care. Leah and I have been managing his case now for almost a year, taking him to and from doctor appointments, helping him with applying for benefits, advocating, and really being his only support locally. We can use help! I am setting up a care support team and would like to get 4-6 volunteers on board to assist us. If you have time to help, please let me know. Many of the things that he needs are very simple. He needs people to come visit him, just sit and chat. He also needs occasional transportation to appointments and outings. He is legally blind, so he can't get out on his own. He needs someone to occasionally bring in groceries and supplies for him or take him to the store. He is a delightful guy, very sweet and always so happy to have someone to visit with. Please consider giving some time to help. I'd like to get this all set up before my departure here so that he has some support other than from Leah and me. Thank you!

Our board is currently working on an offer with a potential candidate for my position, so I will keep you posted! For now, I'll be here until the candidate is secured and trained. Stay tuned for more details.

Blessings,

Laurie Earnst, Executive Director
Family Promise of Greater Lafayette, Inc.
2010 Elmwood Ave. Lafayette, IN 47904
(765) 838-3651 fpglinc.org



Mission Guatemala Fundraiser

Thanks to all who made the fundraiser a fun and productive event. The \$2,300 raised was sent to Mission Guatemala to go toward their land purchase.

Sharing Dwayne Daehler's photos and the pupusas was special. The work of Shelley Lowenberg-DeBoer, Beth Dana, Cindy Modlin Adams, Sherri Guido, Vera Weiser, Sue Larson, Marcia Daehler and Thrivent Action Team made it all possible. Thank you all.



Has Hunger Hike Reached the Goal?
NOT Yet! The **Hunger Hike** 2019 goal, \$100,000, has not been met yet, but we are so very close. Each year 15% of the donations are made **AFTER Hunger Hike**. Working together this goal can be achieved.



To learn how you still can support **Hunger Hike** and help us reach our goal, go to **hungerhike.org**. The programs at LUM, Food Finders and St. Thomas Aquinas are depending on you. Thanks.

I-K Lutheran Where God is doing new things

October 2019

The Indiana-Kentucky Synod Transformational Leadership Academy has launched! As the TLA grows in coming months it will offer robust theological, spiritual, and practical formation for the whole people of God across the Indiana-Kentucky mission territory and beyond.

The first tile in the mosaic of the TLA is focused on the training and formation of Synod Lay Worship Leaders. A Synod Lay Worship Leader is a member of a congregation or other faith community of this synod who has been trained at the synod level and approved by the bishop for preaching and leading worship on an occasional basis for other congregations of the Synod. The formation consists of a series of seminars and classes covering Bible, Lutheran theology and practice, preaching, worship leadership, spirituality and prayer, and boundaries training. See the list of courses here: <https://conta.cc/31Tpljn>. Those who successfully complete the training and formation and are approved by the bishop will be added to the synod's pulpit supply list and, thereby, made available for pulpit supply across this synod.



In alignment with commitments and practices shared across the ELCA, Synod Lay Worship Leaders do not have automatic or blanket authorization to preside at Holy Communion. Such authorization is only considered by the bishop on an instance by instance basis as congregations request such authorization for a particular day and location. See the document "Who Presides?" (<https://bit.ly/2koTU0w>) for this synod's policies and practices in this regard.

By the way, you don't have to want to be a Synod Lay Worship Leader to participate in the courses! All members of the synod (and neighboring synods), rostered and lay, are invited to participate in these courses, either the entire curriculum or ala carte as certain courses look interesting to you. And, in coming months, we will add more tiles to the TLA section of the synod ministry mosaic by offering webinars and seminars, courses and classes in various venues to provide spiritual, biblical, theological, and practical growth opportunities on a wide variety of topics for the whole people of God, including, but not limited to, spirituality, Bible, training for congregation council officers, assisting worship minister training, mission and evangelism, continuing education for rostered ministers, Lutheran theology today, discipleship for a new day...

For more information or to register for a course, please contact TLA Director Deacon Cory Driver (cdriver@iksynod.org or 317-253-3522).

In his book *Quietly Courageous: Leading the Church in a Changing World*, author Gil Rendle asks, "What if the questions we now face are not the product of things gone wrong but rather of the world grown different?" The TLA, along with the other tiles of the mosaic – the ministries, relationships, and programs that we offer in synod ministry – are intended in the power of the Holy Spirit to assist us to live and serve and proclaim the good news of Jesus faithfully, fruitfully and together in a world grown different. To put it another way by adapting our mission statement for synod ministry, through the TLA and other synod ministries we seek to empower, encourage, and equip one another to make Christ known in new ways for a new day.

Thank you for your partnership in this exciting ministry!

Peace be with you,
Bishop Bill Gafkjen



Immigration Workshop

The Center for Congregations is offering a training on “Introduction to Immigration Law and Policy” Thursday, October 24 in Indianapolis. The workshop runs from 11 A.M. to 1 P.M. at First Baptist Church of Indianapolis, Bradley Building. The cost of the workshop is \$10, which includes lunch, conversation and workshops materials.

Angie Henderson plans to attend the training. If you are interested as well, please contact Angie (angie@osluth.org) for registration information or to carpool.

Fort Wayne Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic Immigrant Outreach Attorney Laura Pontius will help you learn more about immigration laws and policy and present a “bird’s eye view” of the immigration legal system. In this workshop, she’ll explore information about immigrants in Indiana and provide reliable sources for non-partisan information on immigration law and policy. This information will help your congregation create informed and educated decisions.

At this luncheon, you’ll learn how to:

- facilitate congregational conversations about immigration.
- access local and statewide resources to support immigrants.
- utilize this information to strengthen your ministries, decide on policy and discuss or advocate on immigration matters.
- help your members connect with local and regional immigrant advocacy organizations.
- equip your congregation to engage and respond in compassion to our immigrant neighbors.
- partner with local community resources to help local immigrants to know their rights and receive legal assistance, obtain green cards or other benefits.

This workshop is for congregations which have activities with or for recent immigrants or for those seeking to be more well-informed about the current state of immigration law.

Laura Pontius will lead the workshop. She is an immigration attorney in northern Indiana who has handled immigration cases for individuals, families, businesses, churches and nonprofits. In her role with the Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic, she provides “Know Your Rights” legal sessions for the immigrant community throughout northern Indiana, as well as legal educational seminars for the non-immigrant community.

Continued from page 1

This became important when the owner was absent, and the steward/economos was entrusted with the day-to-day affairs of the entire estate, including just about every aspect of well-being for the property and people in the owner’s purview. Knowing the owner’s *oikonomia* was the bedrock foundation on which the *oikonomos* made decisions rather than merely following rules. Thus the *oikonomos* could be trusted to make value judgments, manage with shrewdness and careful consideration, look ahead, and stay focused. Whatever the circumstance, then, the *oikonomos*/steward was well equipped to serve the will of the owner in all things!

Stewardship is an important daily activity in the life of a disciple. Jesus spoke throughout the Gospels about money and possessions. (See Luke 12 as an example.) Mostly he warned about the power and ability of possessions to separate us from our relationship with God. Our possessions have the power to get in the way of our relationship with God. We might look to them for security, put our trust in them, and therefore treat them as idols worthy of worship.

As a disciple of Jesus, we can find a broader role for stewardship in our daily life. We are called to be the body of Christ in the world — to do God’s work, share the blessings received from God, do God’s will. That understanding of stewardship is both corporate and individual. How do we take care of all that God has blessed us with? How do we use those blessings to accomplish God’s will for the world? This might mean tending to our health, our relationships, our work, our possessions, our finances, our recreation, God’s creation, our congregation, our community or our faith life.

Our personal life may be dominated by cellphones, credit cards, and keys. These things might make us instantly available, scheduled for every opportunity, able to buy without price, and protective of our stuff. And perhaps worst of all, we might fail to notice the point in time when our possessions begin to possess us.

What does Jesus say? Can we hear Jesus speak about God’s abundant blessings for us? The most important question may still be this: Whom will we trust? When we recognize God’s abundant love, grace and blessings, we realize that God has provided us with everything we need. Jesus calls us to put our trust in him, to grow in faith through living as his disciples. That helps us to put our possessions back into proper perspective — to possess them and not be possessed by them. Jesus invites us to put our trust in God’s abundance, not in our possessions.

News items for the November *Evangel* are due to Sandra Vana (sandra@osluth.org) by 10/23/2019. Please type "Evangel" in the subject line.

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Treasurer: Sue Hermodson

Financial Secretary: John Mills

Congregational Council

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Sherri Guido

Kathy Heise

Carl Huetteman

Mike Myers

Scott Vana

Ministry Team Contacts

Altar: Vicki Mills

Christian Education: Sandra Vana

Family Promise: Julie Huetteman

Fellowship Events: Sara Behnke

Finance: Steve Belter & Carl Behnke

Foundation: Vince Guido

LUM Liaison: Allen Grady

Mutual Ministry: Brian Wagner

Operations: Chris Johannsen

PLM Liaison: Mike Myers

Property: Matt Ohland

Social Justice: Seeking new contact

Worship & Music: Mark Hermodson



The Evangel

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