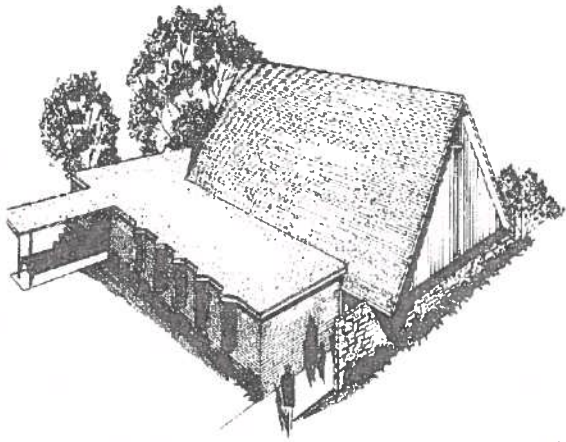


OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN'S FIFTY-FIRST YEAR



When you think of any calendar year as it is draws to a close, of what are your memories made? Most will include accomplishments and disappointments, people and places, and times spent with family and friends. As we narrow our memory pool to the year 2011 at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Newton, Iowa, the results are much the same. Beginning with an amazing month-by-month list of the activities within our church family, it became apparent that there is another way to record what OSLC was about this year. What follows is by no means meant to be



a comprehensive history, nor do I propose that there is any order of importance – only an attempt to remind us all of the work that we are to be about. Consider this as a bit of a “thank you” to all Brothers and Sisters in Christ for all that you do. Consider Our Savior Lutheran Church...



IN CELEBRATION! The year began with the celebration of the people and blessings God, in His Amazing Grace, bestowed on Our Savior through the first 50 years. We celebrated the special occasions of confirmation and graduation; Easter, the Ascension, and Pentecost; national independence and the military service of those that fought to protect that freedom; 25 years of ministry of our Pastor; and “new birth” of Holy Baptism. We celebrated weekly the blessings of the gift of Christ’s body and blood in The Lord’s Supper.

IN WORSHIP! In addition to special services of celebration, we were blessed to gather weekly in worship to read and hear God’s Word and to pray and sing. Our services were enhanced by the musical talents of organist, pianist, and praise band; of soloist and choir. Greeters, ushers, readers and elders assisted



the Pastor in the administration of each service. Many volunteers gave time to prepare Communion ware and to fold the service bulletins.

IN EDUCATION AND GROWTH! The study of God’s word and spiritual growth are evident as we look at our congregation, as well. The children continued to experience the excitement of Bible events in Kingdom Quest and VBS. Midweek classes and Catechism class continue to prepare our young people for their lives in God’s Church. The high school youth of OSL meet regularly to study and encourage. Spring Awakening 2011 was a blessing to those that prepared and attended. Regular adult Bible studies oc-



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OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN'S FIFTY-FIRST YEAR *Continued....*

curred many times each month, both in large group and small, formal and informal. Retreats and rallies provided additional inspiration and encouragement, especially to the women through LWML.



IN MISSION AND MINISTRY! Think about the wide-ranging use of the time, talent, and treasures of our congregation and its members in this area. Financial support and physical gifts and contributions of clothing, mosquito nets, toiletries to missions around the world – to Cambodia where Pastor and Karen’s in-person ministry extended, to Africa with the Houge’s, to Mexico, to Haiti, to Turkey, to China.



This list is only partial. Reflect on the time and energy expended locally sharing Christ’s love with those in our community by delivering joy baskets, singing at Hospice, delivery noon meals at McCann, sharing meals and fellowship with residents at Sundance apartments, playing Bingo. Mission, service, and ministry extends within our membership as well – phone calls, visits, words of encouragements, meal preparation, greeting cards. Care of the beautiful building and grounds with which we have been blessed has also been a special ministry of some.

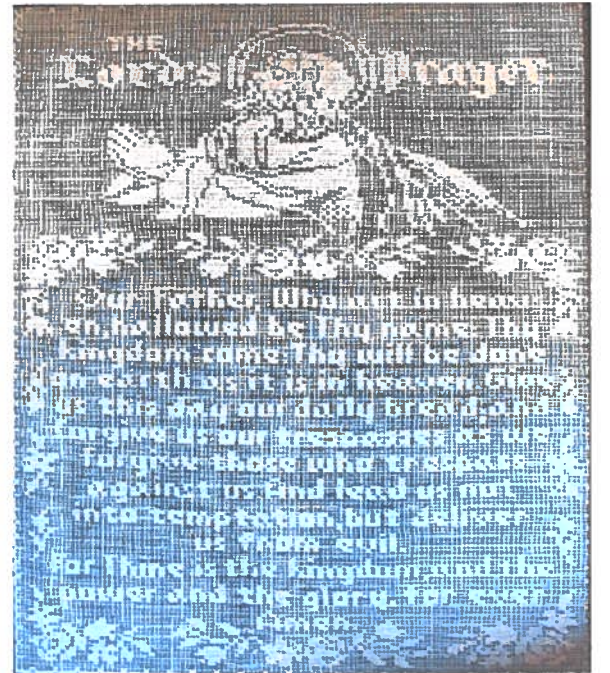


IN FELLOWSHIP! We gathered and enjoyed the company and interest of fellow believers regularly before and after meetings as well as during many of the activities already noted. Special times were set aside as well – evenings to learn about the mission field, for wine and cheese tasting, and for playing games. All of these provide additional opportunities to love and support each other as children of God and to strengthen us for the tasks at hand as His Church.

IN JOY AND IN SADNESS! We laughed and we cried together as we faced the challenges and opportunities that were placed before us. We welcomed new members through Holy Baptism, confirmation and transfer. We suffered loss, but celebrated the lives and blessings of dear friends and family members whom God has taken to the Place Promised for them. We saw friends move away to begin the next phase of God’s plan for them while we welcomed those that have moved to our community.

As we consider the blessings of 2011 let us move forward to 2012 **IN FAITH, IN HOPE, IN LOVE, and most assuredly IN CHRIST!**

Respectfully submitted by Patsy Weddell



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