

A BRIEF HISTORY: OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AUBURN

Before settling on a name or formal affiliation, Christian believers of what would become Our Savior Lutheran Church began worshipping in a pre-school building on Musso Road in January 2014. For the first few months, the pre-school tables, chairs and supply cabinets would be shuttled to the edges, making room to form a circle of portable chairs. Attendees brought their own seats. We sang *a capella*, with donated hymnals or song sheets. Worship was conducted in the round, with a folding table at one end serving as an altar, adorned with a cross and candles.

In May 2014, the members voted to affiliate with the North American Lutheran Church (NALC), a 400-congregational community of faith headquartered in Hilliard, Ohio. Membership paperwork and articles of incorporation were prepared and submitted, and approval followed shortly. We received guidance and support along the way from St. Timothy's Lutheran Church of San Jose, led by Pastor Dan Selbo.

In late spring, the facility's property owners decided to retire and offered OSLC exclusive use of the building. A rental agreement was made, equipment was moved out, and church members began to scrub, sand, paint, furnish and transform the room into a beautiful sanctuary. Fifty upholstered chairs were donated by one of our members (an amount increased by another twenty later in the year). By word of mouth, someone contributed a professional organ that was installed. A unique cross was commissioned from Barron Creations. Many other fixtures and supplies were provided from the new membership. By August, our celebratory open house and worship service took place, with invitations hand delivered to neighbors and friends. It was indeed a moment of clarity and assurance about God's promise to lead and provide for his people.

Lay members of the fellowship volunteer for certain tasks and responsibilities each week, including Ushering, Music, Prayers, Scripture Reading, Refreshments, and the Message. OSLC does not yet have a pastor, so once a month a visiting minister – primarily from St. Timothy's – presides and offers communion. It is truly a "group effort" with each member utilizing their time and talents to serve in various capacities. In November 2014, OSLC voted to approve its first Bylaws and finalized its Charter Membership roster. Those desiring to do so recorded their names in the church's book of records, totaling 52 souls.

Supporting missions and faith-based ministries is a key part of OSLC's spiritual purpose. Local organizations identified for financial and volunteer support include Acres of Hope; the Gathering Inn; and the Auburn Interfaith Food Closet.

In 2015, OSLC applied for grants from NALC and St. Timothy's, in support of missional outreach programs and a search process for a part-time pastor. With deliberation and prayer and led by our Search Team, Our Savior is in diligent discernment for the right spiritual leadership to take our flock forward in service to God, fellow believers, and the greater community. All in all, our "new beginnings at the end of the road" has been most inspiring!