The Altar Guild of Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church is celebrating its 60th anniversary today. Everyone is invited for coffee and fellowship in the Hospitality Center after services in honor of this occasion.

The Altar Guild was initiated on March 29, 1955, under the direction of Pastor Alf Kraabel. In the early days of the Altar Guild, membership was only by special invitation extended by the Pastor to women of the congregation. It was considered an honor to be a servant in the Altar Guild. Members held regular bible studies, special gatherings, luncheons and teas. They studied the historical duties of an Altar Guild and the particular and reverend care of the sacred elements, garments and vessels used around the Altar and in the service of communion. (They even kept the acolytes’ and pastors’ gowns cleaned and pressed!) All past Altar Guild members have been spiritually devoted in their reverent and respectful handling of the Altar cloth and communion ware — as if they were the sacred linens that Jesus’ body was wrapped in. Some of our current members have served the Church in this service for over 40 years. In recent years, the Altar Guild has also welcomed men into service and fellowship.

Today the Altar Guild prepares the Altar for communion, changes the Altar parament colors to coincide with the church season, cares for and stores the Altar paraments and candles and sets the communion table with the wine and bread. The Guild also hand embroiders baptismal towels and sets up the baptismal font for baptisms. During the higher festivals of Christmas and Easter they set up for special services and take care of ordering flowers for the celebration.

The Altar Guild meets about every other month to discuss its current responsibilities, and upcoming events they need to be aware of and carefully deliberate any needs of the Church (such as new paraments, candles, communion ware, etc.).

The Altar Guild has conducted and led in the negotiations and contracting for the design and purchase of the processional cross, the credence table and sanctuary tables, the funeral pall, all of the Altar paraments, the chalices and patens and Altar linens.

The members serve, two at a time for a month several times a year, preparing for Sunday worship, preparing the Altar, clearing and washing the communion ware and linens after each service and covering the Altar.

The current members of the Altar Guild are: Jaimie Bennett, Hawah Borbor, Elaine Degelau, Glenda Elder, Susan Erickson, Sheryl Mennicke, Camille Rogers, Diane Rowe, Lucy Selander, Marie Svang, Paula and David Svendahl, and Mary and John Thurow. Paula Svendahl and Elaine Degelau have been members for over 40 years.

Associate members are those who have been active members but are no longer able to serve (they are still members of OSLC): Blanche Austin, Lucile Elder, Richard Erickson, Doris O’Donnell and Beverly Smith.

The Altar Guild gives honor to what it is all about: Caring for and bringing forth the celebration of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

The Altar Guild welcomes anyone who would like to become an active member. If you are interested in joining us or learning more about the Altar Guild, please contact Glenda Elder.