



Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Leadership Council Monthly Meeting Minutes February 9, 2022

Present: Warren Harmon, Cindy Harbeck-Weber, Bob Westland, Todd Johnson, Phil Kuper, Jennie Loven, Kidron Flynn, Pastor Nikki, Pastor Ben, Emily Block

Absent: Todd Johnson

As a welcoming and inclusive congregation, we:

- Affirm and claim our families, however they are defined
- Embrace intergenerational faith formation and innovative ministries
- Nurture, equip and invite people to share their gifts and talents
- Profess our faith through serving those in need

Our Affirmation of Hope and Thanks for this week – What are we hopeful for? What are we Thankful for?

Opening prayer: Pastor Ben

Review and approve January 2022 minutes: Phil Kuper made a motion to approve the January 2022 minutes and Bob Westland seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

New Business:

Leadership Orientation for 2022 Leadership Council: Pastor Ben led a discussion that covered several topics including the roles and responsibilities of the Leadership Council, as written in the Constitution. In addition, the group decided that it would be helpful to publicize the dates of future Leadership Council dates and times. The potential benefits of having the Financial Secretary attend part of the meetings on a quarterly basis was discussed. Emily Block agreed to discuss further with our financial secretary, Tim Hornseth.

Samaritan Bethany's 100th Anniversary: Samaritan Bethany is celebrating 100 years and are asking their supporting congregations to make an additional financial gift, with a goal of raising \$100,000. The money will be used for exterior renovations of the 8th street house. An internal celebration will be held on March 7th, and a public celebration in April at the Mayo Civic Center with dinner and entertainment. They would prefer us to pledge within the next few weeks and donate the money sometime in the next year. Kidron Flynn made a motion to pledge \$2000 for now with the hope that we would go above that. Phil Kuper seconded the motion, and all voted in favor. The money may come from a congregational appeal as well as our line item for local benevolence. Specific plans for the appeal will be developed later this year.

"40 Together" Lent Theme designed by the Synod. This works well with the Worship and Music Team theme for lent which is "Following Jesus". The Synod is putting together weekly video devotional and weekly prayers as well as weekly activities for use with all ages. They are requesting that congregations donate \$1 per member to go to Tanzanian education and healthcare, Columbia's education, local South Sudanese hunger ministries, local refugee ministries, and local food grants.

LIFT (Living in Faith Together - a new branch of GIFT): Cassie Fohrman, Kidron Flynn, Jennie Loven, Carol Joyce, Kim Pickett & Pastor Ben are meeting soon to design LIFT (Living in Faith Together), which is specifically geared toward our youth. Our ideas of incorporating middle and high school youth into GIFT hasn't worked well. LIFT would include a monthly gathering after GIFT worship that will last 1 ½ hours and will include a meal. It will include both youth and caring adults in the congregation.

Bob Westland suggested that a report to the congregation be developed. Phil Kuper wondered if there would be some small group discussions for families in this age group to gauge their interest and ideas.

Zumbro Conference Assembly Voting Members: The Zumbro Conference Assembly is this Sunday at 1:00 on Zoom. Katie Zahasky has volunteered to attend. Kidron moved to appoint Katie Zahasky as the OSLC representative and Bob Westland seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

SEMN Synod Assembly: The SEMN Synod Assembly is in Mankato on May 7th. Joanne Heathman has volunteered to attend. A request for volunteers from the leadership group was made by Warren and Jennie Loven volunteered to attend. Bob Westland nominated Joanne Heathman and Jennie Loven to be the OSLC voting members to the SEMN Synod. Phil Kuper seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Old Business

Treasurer's Report (Emily Block):

Income YTD (as of 01/31/22): \$41,678.05*

Expenses YTD (as of 01/31/22): \$31,321.11

Budgeted Expenses: \$40,248.47

A significant contribution (\$10,000) that is typically captured in December came in after the first of the year. It will remain on 2022's income report with the understanding that January's income may be artificially inflated.

Leadership Reports:

Business Admin Teams (Todd Johnson): In Todd's absence, his report was presented by Warren and Pastor Ben. Pastor Ben reported that there was a heating issue in the offices that Al Picket is looking into. Al is also working with Decklever to get a bid on the HVAC

Congregational Ministries (Phil Kuper): 25 friendship baskets went out in December. The Music and Worship team discussed Lent plans. Greg talked about bringing more music into worship. They completed recording for the next season of online services.

Outreach Ministries (Kidron Flynn): Circles are meeting, and prayer pals has been delayed. Fair Trade is scheduled for October and the Fair Trade Team will begin meeting in April.

Youth and Education (Jennie Loven). In November, there was a weekend mission trip to Feed My Starving children with 5 youth attending. The Thanksgiving Eve service "pie to go" raised \$300. The youth group held poinsettia sales and the annual Souper Bowl Sunday fundraiser. The Youth Gathering for this summer has been cancelled but will be a trip to the cities during the same time frame, hosted by Cassie and Kidron. Cost will be \$150, which was the deposit for the Youth Gathering. They are planning to do college care packages soon. The Youth Group has questions about the possibility of doing a Palm Sunday youth breakfast. Warren noted we may need to address that request next month. Sunrise service and Senior Sunday recognitions are also being planned.

Vice president (Bob Westland): Bob noted that he is looking forward to serving on the Leadership Council. He's hoping to be a listener and hear all voices of the congregation.

President (Warren Harmon): Warren stated that he is hopeful re: the future of the congregation. He's doing a temple talk as part of the Stewardship Appeal. He's looking forward to the leadership team listening to the congregation and supporting the pastors.

Pastor Ben: Pastor Ben stated that he is thankful for the leadership team and look forward to working together to continue our ministry and mission.

He requested that we revisit our current Covid restrictions because Olmsted county Covid cases are dropping. After a discussion about the purpose of the restrictions and current Olmsted County data, the following motion was made by Jennie Loven: Assuming that Covid numbers in Olmsted County continue to decline, Pastors can resume in-person visits now, and on February 20th, the following can resume: Eating at church for groups less than 50, including Fellowship coffee hour, in-person musical group rehearsals and musical offerings during services, and in-person meetings at the church building. Surgical or N95/KN95 masks will continue to be required in the building. Should COVID cases rise, we would again revisit restrictions and assess. Kidron Flynn seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Pastor Nikki: The Lay Ministry are continuing to visit members. They are interested in interacting with the apartment nearby and having difficulty. The leadership group would prefer a flyer on the bulletin board or mailing to each apartment. Pastor Nikki will follow-up. Pastor Nikki also reported that she is enjoying her 2 visits per week and sending birthday cards.

Generative Ideas From Leadership: Pastor Ben described this briefly as hopes and dreams that the leadership team has for our congregation. Due to time, this item was deferred until next meeting. Cindy HW mentioned that during this meeting, several people had mentioned a desire to listen to members of the congregation and this could be included as one of the ideas for this year. Warren agreed to devote time for this discussion at the next meeting.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer at 9:20

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Harbeck-Weber

OSLC Secretary