



**Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Leadership Council Monthly Meeting
Minutes
March 9, 2022 – 7:30 PM (Zoom)**

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

Guest: Tim Hornseth, Financial Secretary

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**

Opening prayer: Pastor Ben

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

Review and approve meeting minutes from February 9, 2022: Bob Westland made a motion to approve the minutes and Todd Johnson seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion.

Treasurer's Report (Emily Block):

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Income YTD (as of 02/28/22): \$70,585.73

Expenses YTD (as of 02/28/22): \$66,231.34

Budgeted Expenses: \$80,496.94

Emily noted that at the Business and Finance Committee, they decided to reset Quicken so that Quicken and Wells Fargo matched. New budget categories were developed and categories that will be changing include:

- Benevolence (what we give away)
- Personnel section (salaries)
- Worship (Altar Guild, Flowers, Offering envelopes)
- Faith Formation (Forming Faith, Youth, Evangelism, and Family Ministry)
- Properties & Equipment
- Administration (Stewardship supplies, Tech support)

A motion to accept the new budget categories was made by Bob Westland and seconded by Kidron Flynn. All were in favor.

Financial Secretary Report (Tim Hornseth) –

As of 3/6/2022, the pledge card returns include:

- 77 Intent cards have been returned, for a total pledge of \$229,181.
- 23 givers had no change

- 33 givers had an increase
- 10 givers decreased
- 5 returned cards unable to pledge
- 5 new pledges (new giving units that pledged)
- 1 card returned with no nam

Tim further noted that about 5 years ago we received approximately 130 pledge cards and more recent returns have included 100-110 cards. For people using Simply Giving, their pledge changes were made in March this year, rather than in January as in previous years. Tim suggested that reminders to pledge be posted on the e-newsletter and mentioned during Worship for the next several weeks.

Tim was invited back next month to give final totals. He also agreed to send weekly or bimonthly emails about the stewardship/pledge numbers for the next several weeks.

New Business Agenda Items – Pastors Ben and Nikki:

New COVID-19 considerations for Our Savior’s: Pastor Ben described the new CDC guidelines, which have generated questions from the congregation. He noted that Olmsted County is still in the high category, based on the CDC website. Phil noted a recent article describing Olmsted as very recently moving into the medium category. The leadership group reviewed the CDC recommendations for High, Medium, and Low Covid spread. Current CDC recommendations for counties in High transmission include wearing a well-fitting mask indoors, regardless of vaccination status.

A proposal was discussed that would include several elements such as 1) when Olmsted County is in High transmission, masks would be required, 2) when Olmsted County is in Medium transmission, then masks would be required for Worship services and small groups where singing was involved; masks would be optional for other small groups; Food would be allowed 3) for Low transmission, masks would be optional during Worship services. 4) Adjustments would be made weekly depending on County status. Pastor Ben offered to draft a more detailed proposal, which will be reviewed by the leadership team over e-mail.

Seminary Scholarship: Sharon Dunneman will be stepping down from her role as Luther Seminary Scholarship Coordinator. The Leadership Council appreciates her many years of service in this role! Sharon asked if there was a minimum amount that OSLC agreed to give each year. Pastor Ben noted that in 2012 the congregation voted to give a minimum of \$2000 per year. Ideally, the Lenten offerings and money from the Mission Investment Fund will cover that amount, but if not, we have agreed to give the remainder from the general fund. Last year, \$2313 was given. After discussion, it was suggested that we include the Luther Seminary Scholarship as a line item in the budget in the future. A motion to include the Luther Seminary Scholarship as a line item in future budgets was made by Phil Kuper and Jennie Loven seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Old Business

Leadership Reports:

Business Admin Teams (Todd Johnson): Nothing additional. More information about the HVAC bid will likely be available in May.

Congregational Ministries (Phil Kuper): Worship and Music worked on Ash Wednesday and Lenten services. They are working on Easter week services.

Outreach Ministries (Kidron Flynn): Kidron noted that her groups would like to be able to meet in person.

Youth and Education (Jennie Loven): This year, there will not be a Palm Sunday breakfast, but there will be an Outdoor Sunrise Service on Easter. There will also be an Egg Hunt on the Saturday before Easter.

Vice president (Bob Westland): Bob wondered if the Lenten Services question could be given out earlier so that people had more time to think about them.

President (Warren Harmon): Warren briefly discussed several parking lot items. The leadership meetings are now listed in the church calendar. He reminded us that we will update the membership roster in the summer. Also, the church sign in the front of the building continues as a parking lot item.

Pastor Ben Report: LIFT was held this past Sunday. Approximately 18 youth, family and other caring adults attended the discussion from 11:30 -1:00. The next session will be on the first Sunday of April.

Pastor Nikki Report: Pastor Nikki reported that there was good feedback from the people who were at the LIFT discussion. She reported that she conducted the Samaritan Bethany Ash Wednesday service. She also reminded us that the Samaritan Bethany Anniversary Celebration is April 7 at the Mayo Civic Center.

Generative Ideas From Leadership: Pastor Ben suggested that due to the late time, we delay this discussion until next month and move it earlier in the agenda.

Close with the Lord's Prayer at 9:13.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Harbeck-Weber,
OSLC Secretary