



**Our Savior's Lutheran Church - Leadership Council Monthly Minutes  
Thursday, February 8, 2024 – 6:15pm PM**

**Attendees:** Emily Blain, Tammy Olson, Tim Valen, Jessica Grimm, Sherry Rengstorf, Katie Holger, Pastor Ben, Mary Ann Smith (Invited)

**OSLC Leadership Team Absent:** Pastor Nikki

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

**Leadership intros – name, how long you've been connected with Our Saviors and why, pet peeves** All Shared

**January 2024 meeting minutes were approved via email and sent out to congregation.**

**Treasurer's Report (Emily Block)**

Income YTD (as of 01/31/24): \$37,935.42

Expenses YTD (as of 01/31/24): \$32,331.31

Budgeted Expenses (as of 01/31/24): \$35,291.25

- lambi hospital - is there a contract that we send them so much a year? Sherry remembers signing a partnership agreement, but it wasn't for a certain amount that we will give.
- Tim and Emily will look into CDs and interest rates for accounts to recommend possible changes.

**Special Guest – WELCA to discuss funeral volunteering (Mary Ann Smith)**

WELCA would like to return to be the organizers of funeral volunteering. 3 committees - set up, serving, cleanup. At least 2 co-leaders for each committee so it doesn't fall on one person. WELCA members could also be callers to find other members to help out if they physically can't help. If approved, will hold a planning meeting to help organize. Saturday funerals would not be a problem because they would be able to have enough volunteers

Leadership discussion

- Might charge more for weekend or holiday funerals.
- Thank Joyce and Megan for their service from the Leadership.
- Tim motioned to remove the restriction to not have weekend funerals. Sherry seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

## Continuing Business

- **Review OSLC Future Direction member discussions held January 10, 11, and 23.**
  - Productive, engaged conversations. Looked at financial situation and two visions for the congregation. (1. Chaplaincy - visitation, feeling good, internal looking. 2. Looking outward.)
  - Financial reality doesn't allow to fully support both visions.
  - Next is work for people to continue to think and process.
  - 6-8 members came each meeting.
  - Plans to do more meetings.
  - No concrete ideas on how to meet financial needs.
  - What do we want? Everything.
- **Recap Future Church Taskforce meeting.**
  - Pastor Ben shared results from Sunday's sermon about 'Why are you connected with OSLC?' and 'What's Next for OSLC?'
  - Taskforce talked about what do we do with this information.
  - High on the list was getting more members. Current members are not that comfortable reaching out to people to invite them.
  - Can we do this passively by connecting with more people digitally?
    - Have a team that focuses on this.
    - Generate content for social media. More posts, not just marketing.
    - Would Pastor Ben be giving something up to focus on this?
      - If this becomes a focus, he will need to give something up or find volunteers to cover those roles/needs.
      - If others cannot/will not bring in new members, then it needs to be the main focus of the pastor to keep the congregation going.
    - Need to make sure we are still growing our programs so we have something to invite new people to.
    - 1/3 of the committee should be focusing on promoting our existing programs.
    - Discussed young adults and college age members that could be included on the team whether they're close by or could be Zoomed in.
    - Can we partner with Good Shepherd?
    - Bob Westland plans to look into doing live services.
  - Suggestion from council member: Change the sign by the road more often. Kunerts are willing to change sign. Staff need to direct this to be changed more often.
- **Staff annual reviews**
  - As Senior Pastor, Pastor Ben will handle with staff.
  - Personnel team will review Pastor Ben
  - Pastor Ben hasn't gotten to this yet.
- **Long term Rental/Lease agreements – Need to handle early in the year**
  - Emily will have a better idea next month after she connects with Greg.

## New Business Agenda Items – Pastors Ben and Nikki and Leadership Team:

- **Still need a VP...ideas?**
  - People shared some ideas.
- **Decide where Lenten offerings will go**
  - Lutheran Social Services. Pastor Ben will talk with Mary Ann Smith about getting someone to come talk from LSS.
- **Creation of new Marketing & Social Media & Website Team or Teams?**

- See above.
- **Leadership retreat? Joint gathering with Good Shepherd?**
  - Good Shepherd - possible informal social gathering at Taco Jed.
  - "Looking Into Center" at Gloria Dei that we can use. Council was in favor of retreat. Suggested date that needs to be confirmed if it also works for Tim and Pastor Nikki.

## Reports

### **Business Admin Teams (Tim Valen)**

- Tim will get together with Jon Christensen regarding more members for the Finance Team.

### **Congregational Ministries (Katie Holger)**

Congregational Care team:

- The Friendship baskets were a success.
- The amaryllis bulbs seemed to be popular.
- Looking at making more mini prayer shawls and possibly teaching the youth to make them too.

Music and worship:

- January and beyond: This year in February, special music has jazz/gospel themes.
- Ash Wednesday: 12:00 at OSLC and 6:30 at GSLC
- Weekly Wednesday Lent services:
  - 5:30-6:30 Supper then the worship in the fellowship hall with Joyous Light and scripture with coloring and discussion.
- Music March: youth will play bells and sing on Palm Sunday, youth bells will practice Wednesdays before lenten services and youth choir will practice Sundays during Family Sunday School

### **Outreach Ministries (Sherry Rengstorf)**

Fellowship/Ruby Florine:

Parish Fellowship will be serving Feb 21, 28, March 6, 13, 20 and Maundy Thursday, March 28.

Also beginning to plan another Family Game Night—this time with no meal served, but rather pot luck munchies and sweets.

Women of OSLC/Mary Ann Smith:

I will be there to present our plan for funeral serving. Other news is we are having our Prayer Pal event on March 18. Pati Kachel will be presenting the program—Irish Tales and other Blarney. Free will offering to Channel One. Some time in March will be designated Bold Women Sunday.

Fair Trade Market/Megan Valen:

Fair Trade Market planning will start up again in April or May. \$744.00 additional items FTM items were sold at Christos at Autumn Ridge.

### **Youth and Education (Jessica Grimm)**

Youth events:

- Sunday, February 11, we will be having a Valentine's Day Bake Sale
- March 3 youth trip meeting at Good Shepard

- March 6th. they will be setting up, serving and cleaning up the Wednesday Lenten Meal
- March 9th, we are going to host a Jazz concert at Good Shepherd. This will be a free-will donation fundraiser for the summer trip. Here is a link to the band: Home (google.com) There is talk of learning some jazz moves at the February event to use at this event! This is going to be such a fun event for all!!!

Family Sunday School hung a prayer chain, invite congregation to add their own prayers

**Vice president (vacant)**

**Pastor Ben**

- Lent starts soon.
- Family Retreat coming up.

**Pastor Nikki**

**Preach:**

14th @ GS

28th @ OS

**Worship**

7th @ OS

Feb. 4th @ GS

**Visits:**

23rd Jeanette Erickson OS

Feb. 5th Eileen Hammre GS

**Funerals**

**Weddings**

**Meetings:**

8th-9th OS & GS pastors retreat to plan out year

9th Conference meeting in Byron

9th Conference Leaders meeting (Zoom)

9th Leadership @ OS

17th Lunch mtg. with Cassie, Coin & Pastor Carl-Eric

18th- 21st National Youth Network Extravaganza in New Orleans

24th Zoom meeting

28th Tubing Event

30th Met with a communion lay person at GS.

Feb. 4th Zumbro River Conference Assembly

Feb. 6th Met with a family regarding Memorials

Feb. 6th Met with Pastor Carl-Eric and Cassie to get a plan on the Summer trip

Feb. 6th All Staff meeting at OS

**Next Leadership Meeting:** Thursday, March 7 at 6:15pm

**Closed with the Lord's prayer**

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Olson  
OSLC Secretary