



**Our Savior's Lutheran Church - Leadership Council Monthly Meeting**  
**Tuesday, April 8 -- 6:00 pm**

**Present:** Emily Blain, Jessica Grimm, Dan Jordan, Pastor Ben Loven, Sherry Rengstorf, Tim Valen, Katie Zahasky, Emily Block (Invited)

**Absent:** Jon Alleckson

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-** Katie Zahasky

We are hoping for... and thankful for...

**Agenda:**

**Continuing/New Business**

March 2025 meeting minutes were approved via email and sent out to congregation.

**Good neighbors with the flower farm!** – We received invitation from Iron Butterfly Flower Farm (Deb Majerus- founder 507-202-0925- Iron-Butterfly.com) to visit. They also offered free flowers for the months of late May to end of June. Leadership discussed.

Next steps-

- Plan to a walk through their gardens to see the farm.
- Consider using this opportunity for a nature walk for youth and children on a summer Sunday
- Consider using their flowers instead of Renning's, depending on their weekly availability
  - More information needed before final decision is made

**Personnel conversations**

Evaluations for staff are completed (Bev Gronvold, Greg Henderson, Bryant S., Emily Block, Tim Hornseth, and Joanne Hamilton). Personnel committee meeting tonight after Leadership meeting to review and set up evaluation meetings after Easter with these staff to complete this process.

**Capital Campaign?** - Tabled- Discussion to be continued after 5/18/25 congregational conversation.

**Joint leadership meeting-** date to be determined, agenda follow- up of topics discussed at joint Executive committee.

**May 18<sup>th</sup> congregational conversation-** planning tabled to May leadership meeting. Brunch by Gleason's catering.

General discussion – other ideas to engage visitors/new members- neighborhood activities:

- Neighborhood Night-Out, or other activity with benevolence i.e. outdoor movie/popcorn + free will offering for Salvation Army, Channel One, etc.
- Drive-through with "Welcome to OSLC" informational brochure and swag i.e. granola bars, popcorn, etc.
- More discussion at May meeting

## **Reports:**

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

- Business and finance
  - New insurance contract arrived and needs to be signed and returned. Premium increase (without any claims) of approx. \$2500
- Building and ground
  - Back youth room has been repaired and painted from mold removal.

### **Congregational Ministries (Jon Alleckson)**

- No updates

### **Joint Ministry Team (Katie Zahasky)**

- No meetings or updates

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

- Fair Trade Market/Megan Valen
  - We were invited to sell Fair Trade at the Spring WELCA Conference at Zion Lutheran in Stewartville last Saturday. We sold another \$458 of merchandise and food items. Bill will be selling FT food at the World Jubilee this coming weekend in Minneapolis.
- Women of OSLC/Mary Ann Smith
  - Joint bible study will be August 6 at 1 pm. Jodie Westland has volunteered to be one leader. Fall event will be Oct. 20. The Norgards will be presenting about their experiences in Guatemala. \$303 were sent to the Women's Shelter from Prayer Pal event.
- Fellowship/Ruby Florine
  - Lenten meals are going as planned. May 18th there will be a congregational brunch to talk about our church path. Katie Zahasky is leading that as Ruby is in Canada during that time. Gleason's will cater a French toast casserole and fruit.
- Tanzania Palliative Care Partnership/Joanne Heathman & Sherry Rengstorf
  - A second meeting was held at GS & it was decided to send out an email to those who have expressed interest in going on a 2026 TZ trip with possible dates & itinerary & see what the response is. Email sent last week.

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

- "Youth in the Kitchen" night, Mar 26, raised \$1001.00 for youth activities.
- April 13<sup>th</sup>
  - DURING worship assistance is needed with the Sunday School kids program. I am not here that weekend, so I also need an adult to help with the overseeing of the 6-12th grade youth.
- April 16<sup>th</sup> 6p-7:30
  - I am also gone for this, so again, an adult is needed. There is NOT a Lenten meal that night as it is the beginning of Holy Week.
- April 20<sup>th</sup>
  - 9am Help during worship.
- April 27<sup>th</sup>
  - Will be the youth assisted worship as opposed to the Sunrise Service. Allison Humke will be preaching the sermon. More details to come, but please put this on the calendar as we will probably also do the breakfast that morning, too.
- Two youth and Alecia Meline will be going to Nashville for the summer mission trip to Nashville, renting one van.

**Vice President (Dan Jordan)**

No updates

**Treasurer (Emily Block)**

**Treasurer's Report:**

- Income YTD (as of 03/31/2025): \$106,286.87
- Expenses YTD (as of 03/31/2025): \$121,779.56
- Budgeted Expenses: \$96,057.66

**Pastor Ben's report:**

**Summer pastoral coverage**

Pastor Ben has mapped out his absences:

May 4<sup>th</sup>

June 15<sup>th</sup> (Father's Day)

June 22<sup>nd</sup>

Possibly July 27<sup>th</sup>

Pastor Ben leading worship, sermon coverage only:

June 1<sup>st</sup>

June 29<sup>th</sup>

August 3<sup>rd</sup>

- Discussion on how to cover included coverage needed and resources (lay preachers for sermon only dates (Katie will ask Brett Blattner), pulpit fill (Katie will contact Pastor Jim Rushton and Pastor Ben will contact Pastor Byron Meline), and joint worship with GSLC (with/without Pastor Ben co-leading with Pastor Carl-Eric.
- Pastor Ben suggested mentoring/in-service for potential lay preachers.
- A note inviting congregants to consider lay preaching will be sent out.

\*Addendum: 4/9/25- Pastor Rushton will lead worship on 5/4/25 and 6/22/25. Pastor Corinne Thul will lead worship on 6/15/25. Pastor Ben will notify us if he needs coverage for 7/27/25... Seeking coverage for lay preaching.

Pastor Ben's last sabbatical was 3 months in the summer of 2021.

- OSLC has no sabbatical policy. The synod website has several policies (general to specific guidelines) to consider and resources on how to create an individualized policy.
- Next steps:  
Personnel committee meeting later this evening to discuss development of sabbatical policy

Immigration/refugee concerns: more information coming

**Adjournment: 7:33 pm**

**Close with the Lord's prayer:** Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

**Next meeting:** Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm

**Adjourned Meeting at 7:33 pm**

Respectfully submitted,  
Katie Zahasky,  
Secretary, OSLC Leadership Council

