



Our Savior's Lutheran Church - Leadership Council Monthly Meeting
Thursday, May 8, 2025 -- 6:00 pm

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

Absent: Jon Alleckson and Jessica Grimm

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- by Emily Blain

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

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

Agenda:

Continuing/New Business

- Memorial money- currently there is no process for the request/distribution of these funds, Pastor Ben has been reviewing/deciding. Team agreed to the following process:
 - Emily Block will continue to record and maintain the memorial funds records
 - A congregant requesting memorial funds should send a note with the **amount being requested and planned use** to Treasurer, Emily Block. Next steps:
 - For amounts < \$1,000 - reviewed/decided by Executive Committee
 - For amounts ≥ \$1,000 - reviewed/decided by Leadership Council
 - Following review/approval of these meeting minutes, the process will be shared with the congregation.
 - Greg had asked Katie during choir rehearsal if there were memorial funds available for improvements for lighting the handbells and several other small items. Katie made motion to approve \$1,000 for the music ministry under the directorship of Greg. Motion was seconded by Tim, all approved. Katie will communicate this information back to Greg.
- Personnel conversations
 - Evaluations- in process, awaiting final review and updates. One Personnel Committee member and Pastor Ben will meet with each staff to share/discuss. Plan is for the evaluations to be done every summer.
 - Personnel will plan to meet after regular Leadership meetings to develop a Sabbatical Policy.
- Columbarium
 - Re-establish a committee?
 - Tim suggested this committee be re-established to manage columbarium use and maintenance (including current concerns re: drainage, landscaping).
 - There are two separate accounts (operations and memorial) totaling approximately \$13,000 + \$1,500 in Good Samaritan funds which can likely be used interchangeably. Katie volunteered to be on this committee. Tim will move this project forward.
- May 18 Congregational Discussion
 - Does anything else need to happen with catering? - Katie reports all has been ordered and organized.
 - External childcare – Emily Blain has someone in mind; other options would be to request help from GSL congregants. They would be reimbursed \$100/person for this service. Emily Blain will follow-up and reach out to GSL, if needed.

- Capital Campaign? -
 - Group agreed it is too early to bring this topic to the congregation.
 - Discussion of current needs including replacement of two compressors, several windows that need repairing, possible transition point in roof that needs attention.
 - Tim reported he has been in communication with a congregant donor who has offered to support some of the financial needs (possibly the current issues and/or a capital campaign).
 - Regardless of the future of our building, the group decided we need to focus on the current issues that need to be addressed. Tim will discuss our needs with the potential donor.
- Future conversations- May 18th Congregational Discussion/Brunch
 - Discussion about best approach to meet the goal of **hearing the voice of the congregation** on the future of our church.
 - We decided the best approach would be small group discussions with a focused list and a leader or surrogate at each table, if possible, to take notes.
 - Plan is as follows:
 - Introduction by President Emily Blain –

Introduction

We hope you are enjoying the brunch!

Since our annual congregational meeting in January, 2025,

- *Leadership team has met four times, including a joint meeting with GSL leadership team in April.*
- *Leadership team had a ½ day retreat in February.*
- *Executive team has met three times, including a joint meet with GSL executive team.*

There has been a lot of lively dialogue in these meetings, but we have more questions. Now we want to hear the voice of our congregation. This is the time to bring forward all your thoughts, concerns, encouragements, and ideas.

We appreciate the rich history of our congregation. Today, we want to know your best ideas for worship and our congregational ministries as we move forward.

A member of the current or past leadership team will be at the table with you to focus the discussion, if needed, and to take notes. Then we will ask the note-taker to share the thoughts of the group with the congregation at large.

Part 1: 15-20 min.

As you finish enjoying the meal, please turn your attention to the paper on your table and as a group, list five worst-case scenarios and five best-case scenarios for the future of our church/congregation. We will share these shortly.

***Emily Block will digitally “sticky note these to a board” for the congregation to review.**

After this discussion, turn the paper over....

Part 2: Remainder of meeting time

At your table, discuss the following questions:

- How do we build a sustainable future for OSLC?
- What is our mission (reason for being)?
- What do you need to make the best decision for you and your family?

Large group discussion of these ideas, if time allows.

Summary and next steps...

Thank you for sharing. This has been very valuable and we will use the information gathered today in our discussions/plans moving forward. We will keep in touch and please reach out with your questions/concerns.

Close discussion with Lord’s Prayer

***Leaders, please save all your notes and hand them off to Katie to compile them in one document.**

Meeting minutes continued...

Reports:

Business Admin Teams (Tim Valen)

- Getting some bids on potential additional roof leaks.
- Properties:
 - Working on various landscaping improvements
 - Resolving some physical plant pump issues.
 - New bid on two compressors coming

Congregational Ministries (Jon Alleckson) - no report

Joint Ministry Team (Katie Zahasky) – no meetings or updates from the team

Outreach Ministries (Sherry Rengstorf)

- Women of OSLC:
 - Joint Bible study will be on August 6 @ 1 pm.
- Fair Trade Market: Nothing new with Fair Trade, we will be meeting in June to start planning for our Oct Market.
- Fellowship:
 - Congregational brunch will be served by Parish Fellowship on Sunday, May 18 after worship. French toast casserole, fresh fruit, orange juice and coffee.
- Sunday, July 6, will be a joint worship at OSLC with Good Shepherd invited to join us. Picnic to follow of pulled pork sandwiches, coleslaw, and lemonade. Desserts will be potluck from both congregations.
- TZ Partnership/possible 2026 trip:
 - There is no longer any interest from GS group. The two that came to our last meeting regret that they are not able to go for personal reasons. Pastor Carl-Eric, understandably, will not be going since no one from GS is going. Pastor Ben does not have any interest in going. Sherry and possibly her daughter are still interested and a couple from OSLC, that went before, would like to go back. One other couple might go, if the dates could be earlier - like spring. Joanne & Sherry plan to meet with Kathy Chatelaine in June to discuss.

Youth and Education (Jessica Grimm)

- Bowling event has been cancelled.
- First trip meeting will be in June, two youth and one adult are attending.

Vice President (Dan Jordan) - no updates

Treasurer (Emily Block)

- Income YTD (as of 04/30/2025): \$138,385.96
- Expenses YTD (as of 04/30/2025): \$145,663.16
- Budgeted Expenses: \$128,076.88

Pastor Ben's report:

- **Podcasts** will be starting up in a few weeks with Pastor Carl-Eric and several other pastors.

- **Summer pastoral coverage**

Pastor Ben has mapped out his absences:

~~May 4th~~ Pastor Rushton- went well

June 15th - Pastor Corinne Thul (Father's Day)

June 22nd - Pastor Rushton

July 27th - Katie will work to cover this from Synod pulpit fill list

Pastor Ben leading worship, sermon coverage only:

June 1st

June 29th

? August 3rd (May need full worship leader coverage)

Leadership- Emily queried others who might be willing to be a lay preacher for one of these June dates, no volunteers at this time. If there is no interest from the absent Leadership Council members, we decided to send a note asking for someone from the congregation for these dates. Katie will follow-up on this item.

President's notes:

Briefly discussed article sent out, *Composting the Church*, and the congregational survey results.

Next meeting: TBD

Closed 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.

Adjournment: 7:45 pm

Tour- Iron Butterfly Flower Farm- It was a lovely flower farm tour, hosted by owners, Deb and Joel, who were very warm and welcoming. [Iron Butterfly Home](#).



Respectfully submitted,
Katie Zahasky, Secretary, OSLC Leadership Council