



**Our Savior's Lutheran Church -
Leadership Council Monthly Meeting
Thursday, August 14 -- 6:00 – 8:20 pm**

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

Absent: Jon Alleckson

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

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- Sherry Rengstorf

Affirmation of Hope and Thanks – What are you hopeful for, and what are you thankful for?

Reports

Business Admin Teams (Tim Valen)

- Audit is being prepared
- Jon is working on insurance update's related workman's comp coverage
- Al is awaiting quote for the anticipated roof repair, no updates on A/C bid
 - RPU rebate information sent to Al and Tim in July.

Congregational Ministries (Jon Alleckson)

- **Altar Guild** - youth continues to be very involved with serving communion. Annual meeting coming in September. Contact Jon if there are questions/suggestions he can bring forward.
- **Music and Worship** - Greg is planning to resume fall programming the Wednesday after Labor Day.
- **Lay ministry** - We currently have 16 members receiving home communion. Four Our Savior's members responded to our request to send extra notes/cards to some of these members. The sing along group continues their weekly visits to various members in their homes/facilities. Let the team know if you know of someone who would enjoy having a sing along.

Joint Ministry Team (Katie Zahasky)

- **Carol Olsen (GSLC) and Katie Z.** - will be introducing content about anticipatory grief to both congregations on 9/21 and 9/28. If there is interest, programming will be built for a group activity.
- No other joint ministry meetings/updates

Outreach Ministries (Sherry Rengstorf)

- **Women of the OSLC** - WELCA board meeting will be August 18. We will be planning for the SE MN Women's Synodical Convention in Waseca, September 27. We will be picking a voting member from our group. We will be talking about the Triennial Convention and Gathering to be held next year (2026).
- **Fellowship** - Rally Sunday brunch planned. Bingo night in October is being scheduled.
- **Fair Trade Market** - Our next meeting is August 26th. Advertising will be going out to churches the end of August. Merchandise is being ordered and will be arriving soon.
- **Tanzania trip** - Awaiting more information from the Synod

Youth and Education (Jessica Grimm)

- **Cassie** is working on Freshman breakfast and summer trip.

Vice President (Dan Jordan)

- No updates

Treasurer (Emily Block)

- **Monthly report -**
Income YTD (as of 07/31/25): \$210,509.61
Expenses YTD (as of 07/31/25): \$236,257.78
Budgeted Expenses: \$224,134.54
- **Capital Campaign progress** (as of 08/14/25): \$57,000

Pastor Ben - reported church-wide assembly was wonderful, shared highlights. Rev. Yehiel Curry was elected as new bishop. Discussed apprenticeship model of ministry, involving lay ministry as having a greater role in ministry.

Discussed a building walk-through with Emily Blain and Dan Jordan. Discussed possible renovations that would make the building more accessible and reflect current ministry activities.

Continuing/New Business

- **The Redeemed Christian Church of God** – hosting their 20th anniversary and renting OSLC for Saturday, August 30 – Award Night & Dinner, 4:00 PM. Rent was \$150.00. Originally, they reserved set up time on Thursday and Friday before the event. Now they would like to extend their set up time to include multiple days earlier that week and more space. The previously signed contact was reviewed. Discussion/suggestions included:
 - Confirming a contact person (phone #/email) from both churches for any issues during the set up or the Saturday event.
 - Confirm planned use of our sound board, including someone from their church with knowledge of how to operate our equipment. If OSLC sound person is needed, additional cost of \$100 to pay for this time.
 - Emily Blain will be the OSLC contact person for Saturday event.
 - Pastor Ben will follow-up with these arrangements and communications.
- **Personnel committee -**
 - Pastor Ben- evaluations - pending for Greg and Bryant
 - Personnel will plan to meet after regular Leadership meetings to develop a Sabbatical Policy.
- **Combine loose and budgeted into one line?** - Discussion deferred to September meeting
- **Capital Campaign/building maintenance**
 - \$57,000 gifted so far, \$55,000 designated for A/C condensers/coils.
 - ❖ \$25,000 donor requesting matching dollars from the congregation.
- **Capital campaign kick-off on Rally Sunday 9/7/25**
 - Thermometer/graphic – include big gifts – Emily Blain
 - Mailing including letter/invitation to pledge card will be sent out the week before- Pastor Ben
 - Thank you-letter following gifting- Pastor Ben
 - Presenting the campaign - during the service on 9/7/25- Tim Valen
 - Graphic for letter/ invitation to pledge card - Emily Block
 - Monthly updates of the capital campaign will be posted in congregation communications - Emily Block
 - Funds earmarked for the Building Maintenance Fund will be listed separately, but remain in the current church account - Emily Block.
- **Other Rally Sunday plans** - No joint activities are planned with GSLC this year

- Brunch will be served Parish Fellowship
- Carnival games/activities will be held for children – Emily B, Katie H, others
- Ministry Fair- representatives from our ministry teams will have a table, information, sign-up sheets during the service to share with interested congregants – Pastor Ben will print out the sign-up sheets

➤ **Our Savior's 2.0 focuses –**

- **Website update from Ben/Emily-** Review of website mock-ups and discussion. Plan for website to be up in the next few weeks. Joanne will manage updates/changes once it is "live".
- **Neighborhood block party update** - Jessica
 - ❖ Booked for 2025...2026 schedule not up yet...maybe sign-up in May? TBD
- **Book a room at Quarry Hill? Bench by the park trail?** - Sherry Rengstorf
- **Movie night update-** Pastor Ben - Cassie Fohrman has ideas for movie night in December- more to come
- **Social media manager and event coordinator-*** Do we want to hire someone to help with digital presence and/or event planning?
 - ❖ Wrap this into the next Office Admin job?
 - ❖ Katie Holger's cousin- text from her reviewed, she would be open to conversation
 - ❖ What would they do? Two jobs – social media manager and event coordinator
 - ❖ Plan, publicize, photos at events
 - ❖ Event follow-up – reports after the fact (we did XYZ!)
 - ❖ Pre/post communication
 - ❖ Work with Executive Team to share what happens in meetings and cong. meetings
 - ❖ Utilization of resources
 - ❖ Social media calendar – schedule posts, create Events, community outreach
 - ❖ Pics/videos/after-report at Rally Sunday/Fair Trade/All Saints/Women's Events/Christmas Eve
 - ❖ How to take the things we do and make them into invitations to come hang out...

*Suggestion was made that, until this decision is made, we take 3-4 items from the above list and ask for congregation volunteers to start working on these ideas, i.e. creating videos, and taking pictures of events and ministry in action to post with captions on our new website when it goes live.

What is the time frame for the evangelism campaign? TBD, discussion at future meeting.

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.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm

Next meeting - Wednesday September 17 at 5:30pm (please note time change)

Respectfully submitted,
Katie Zahasky, Secretary, OSLC Leadership Council