



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

**Attendees:** Emily Blain, Tammy Olson, Tim Valen, Sherry Rengstorf, Katie Holger, Pastor Ben, Emily Block

**Absent:** Pastor Nikki, 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** - Emily Blain

**Affirmation of Hope and Thanks for this week – What are we hopeful for? What are we thankful for?**  
All shared

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

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

July:

Income YTD (as of 07/31/2024): \$246,272.38

Expenses YTD (as of 07/31/2024): \$246,896.04

Budgeted Expenses: \$247,038.75

- \$3000 out of memorials for audio/visual updates for live streaming.
- Does the budget include dues for the Zumbro River Valley conference? Probably not. Would amount to about \$25 for OSLC.

**Continuing/New Business**

1. Staff annual review update
  - a) As Senior Pastor, Pastor Ben will handle with staff.
  - b) Goal to be done by Sept 30.
  - c) In future, move the reviews to Aug-Sept yearly
  - d) Personnel team will review Pastor Ben
2. VP Update - Still getting no's. Reviewing options.
3. Memorial Tracking update
  - a) Joan Rose asked to step down from the role.
  - b) Joanne Hamilton will take over the financial aspect.
  - c) Notice in the bulletin for volunteer(s) to write thank yous.

4. 2025 Financial Ministry Vision
  - a) Stewardship appeal
  - b) Theme ~~the~~Possible Promise of Enough
  - c) Using Luther Seminary Stewardship material like we did last year.
  - d) Share resources again with Good Shepherd.
  - e) Stewardship Thank You Sunday Nov. 24.
  - f) Intent Sunday Nov. 17
  - g) We could use this time to talk about Required Minimum Distributions and Qualified Charitable Distributions. Tim Valen will include this and more in a one pager that will be sent with the Stewardship appeal letter and Intent card.
  - h) Discussed including questions on the Intent cards such as 'I want to know more about ... gifting Required Minimum Distributions , gifting shares of stocks'.
  - i) Thrivent Choice Dollars are available for all Thrivent members to give to a non-profit.
  - j) Suggestion to include a link in the weekly email for people to easily reply with their Intent.
5. Future Church Taskforce
  - a) Scott working on flags
  - b) Emily Blain is working on visual for directions/doors to put on the website to help visitors know which door to enter.
6. Joanne Hamilton will celebrate 20 years in Sept.

## Reports

### Business Admin Teams (Tim Valen)

- Workers Comp - can't get our insurance agent to call us back.
- What's the priority of various repairs? A/C (\$15K), Roof, Organ, Parking lot
  - Durst Outdoor Services - Kraig Durst said he would seal cracks as part of his contribution to the church. Would the family continue to honor that?
  - Greg is looking into the organ costs.

### Congregational Ministries (Katie Holger)

- Congregational Care
  - Would like to use the combined disposable communion elements again. Leadership agreed that would be fine.
  - Singers going all over. Invite others to join them.
  - Working on making small pocket quilts and cards to send to people on the prayer chain. Partnering with Family Sunday School on this.
- Worship and Music
  - Planning some combined music with choir and bells, including all ages. Possibly combine music with Good Shepherd at times. Youth bells and youth choir to start this fall.
  - We continue to brainstorm ways to remove barriers in worship to make it easier for newcomers and members alike. Invite others to share their ideas.
  - We have started live streaming services and we are working on small logistical hurdles with computers, cameras, and the cart projector.

### Joint Ministry Team (Katie Holger)

- Swimming event at Chatfield pool was well received and enjoyed.
- Survey coming up.

- Sept 8 Rally Sunday at Good Shepherd with potluck. Youth will be sharing their stories from the summer ELCA youth gathering.

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

- Megan Valen - Fair Trade Market
  - We have another Fair Trade Mtg again on August 26th. Merchandise has begun to be ordered. We will be putting the Sign up Genius on the church website right after Labor Day asking for volunteers.
- Ruby Florine - Fellowship
  - Parish fellowship will work on hosting a potluck with GS for Rally Day Sunday.
- Mary Ann Smith - Women of OSLC
  - We are looking forward to our joint Bible Study at 1 pm August 14. Lonnie from Good Shepherd will be assisting me with the lessons. The board will be meeting later this month to plan our Fall Event.

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

- From Cassie - I have nothing, but Ben, Nikki, Carl-Eric, Colin and I are meeting next week to start to look to next year. The trip was AMAZING!!!!
- Family Sunday School will resume Sunday September 15.
- Intergenerational event combined with Congregational Care Team planned for November 24.

#### **Vice president (vacant)**

#### **Pastors' reports**

**Pastor Nikki** No report.

#### **Pastor Ben**

- Went to a Spiritual Gaming conference. What's a personal line that you have that can't be crossed? What's a veil that you don't feel comfortable with if someone gets too close? How do you answer this question for OSLC? Was helpful to think about different ways of doing things.
- New section in weekly email "How's That Work Again?", highlighting how things work at Our Savior's. Pastor Ben is happy to visit people as his schedule allows.

#### **Big Conversations**

- Roof repair - \$64K for partial replacement. Mold removal, if it exists, is not listed in the bid. Start date of June 2025.
  - With new HVAC system, we planned to turn off flow to areas when not in use to be more efficient. But with leaks in the ceiling and air quality concerns it may be most effective to have the system on most of the time in most of the building maintaining a consistent temperature.
  - ELCA Mission Investment provides low cost loans.
  - Question for Business and Finance Team - how low do we feel comfortable putting our reserves if we use them to pay for repairs?
- Continue conversations:
  - Think about how we can continue to do ministry with our greatest asset and liability (the building).

- Congregational identity
  - Need to understand our identity so we know how to talk to people about us.
  - People continually mention that OSLC is friendly.
  - Pastor Ben's observation of who we are and what we have done:
    - Down to earth - Appropriately friendly. Kids are welcome in worship.
    - Approachable - congregation and pastor. Kids and adults feel comfortable talking to and asking the pastor questions.
    - Fun. Evident in our activities and groups.
  - What are young families looking for? They go to the website first.
  - Highlight multi generational families and do more intergenerational events.
- For now our church's software system is adequate. Recent exploration of the system has opened up other options on how to use it.

**Next Leadership Meeting:** Sept date TBD

**Closed with the Lord's prayer.**

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Olson  
OSLC Secretary