



**Our Savior's Lutheran Church - Leadership Council Monthly Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, January 10 -- 6:00pm**

**OSLC Leadership Team:** Emily Blain, Tammy Olson, Tim Valen, Jessica Grimm, Sherry Rengstorf, Katie Holger, Pastor Ben, Emily Block

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 – What are we hopeful for? What are we thankful for?** All shared

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

**Reports – Treasurer down below**

**Business Admin Teams (Tim Valen)**

- Audit date on January 14.
- Review of year, as submitted by Jon Christenson for the annual meeting:  
There were some challenges this year that we had to address.

We reviewed our insurance coverage as there was a substantial increase in property coverage. It ended up being from all the claims from the storms down south and everyone was affected, not just Our Saviors. We also discovered there was a gap in our workman's comp coverage and worked with our agent to quickly resolve the issue.

We also had some building issues that had to be addressed. A leaking roof and some HVAC issues.

We reviewed our reserve funds and were able to use some of them to get the roof repaired.

The good news is our CDs are performing as expected.

And we were still able to stay under budget for the year.

I would like to thank our Treasurer Emily Block and our Financial Secretary Tim Hornseth for all their hard work and dedication this year.

And thanks to the committee members for the past year.

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

- Congregational Care Ministries:
  - About 15 congregational members are being visited monthly. Two new visitors have joined the team.
  - Pocket Prayer quilts are sent with a card to new people on the prayer list.
  - Sing along Gang: visits have included Madonna Towers, WELCA, Bethany Samaritan, Pine Island, Meadow Lakes, George Meyer, River Bluff, Gramercy, ABC, and Hiawatha Homes.
- No update from Worship and Music or Altar Guild

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

Update as shared in the bulletin:

With Pastor Nikki taking a new call, many of us might have been wondering what that means for the future of the Shared Ministry between Good Shepherd and Our Savior's.

The good news is that our Shared Ministry will continue for the immediate future! The Joint Ministry Team (made up of members from both congregations), Councils, Key Volunteers, Committees, Staff, and Pastors are fully committed to continuing this partnership through the established relationships created through Pastor Nikki's ministry with us. We have at least one joint worship service, monthly joint youth group activities, and the joint Summer Youth Mission Trip to look forward to!

That said, our Shared Ministry is heading into a new phase. We will not be seeking to fill Pastor Nikki's position at this time. The Joint Ministry Team and our respective councils will be engaged in active discernment about the future of this partnership and any future staffing that it may necessitate. In the coming months, the Team is looking to involve the members of the congregations in conversation about priorities and possibilities for the future.

If you would like to have more direct conversations about the future of our Shared Ministry, or if you are interested in joining the Joint Ministry Team, please reach out to Pastor Carl-Eric or Pastor Ben.

Thank you for faithfully exploring this ministry experiment. We look forward to more to come!

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

- No update for Parish Fellowship
- Fair Trade/Megan Valen
  - I am happy to report that we had some very successful sales from Oct-Dec selling at other churches and venues. So, we have just a few boxes of merchandise left to carry over to the 2025 Market. Bill will continue to stock food items at Sargent's, Dwell and Christos all year long.
  - We will now take a break from doing any extra markets and then start to plan our 2025 Market in May.

- Women of OSLC/Mary Ann Smith
  - WELCA board met in November and set the calendar for 2025. We were able to send \$195 to six organizations: Salvation Army, The Landing, Mankato and Winona Campus Centers, Link and the Jeramiah project. We collected \$588 for Thankoffering and sent it to the Synodical treasurer. WELCA members helped pack the Friendship bags and distribute them in December.
- Tanzania Partnership/Joanne Heathman & Sherry Rengstorf
  - Information Meeting for possible TZ trip in 2026 January 19th at 6:30pm at OSLC to see if interest & answer questions. Has been in the bulletin & Good Shepherd also invited.
  - Several people have asked about it.

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

- Cassie is meeting with Good Shepherd next week

#### **Vice President (vacant)**

#### **Continuing/New Business**

- Staff annual review update - Personnel met and have Pastor Ben's review complete. Pastor Ben has started on staff reviews and he will look at available dates to do his review next week.
- Leadership folks next year
  - Still need VP and Congregation Ministries director
  - Secretary and Business Admin director have nominees
- Synod Assembly (May 30-31 in Mankato) and Conference Assembly (February 16 at 1pm at Zion Lutheran in Stewartville) reps
  - Need 2 people for each assembly
  - Have one potential for the Conference Assembly at Zion Lutheran on Feb 16
  - Will ask for other volunteers at the annual meeting

#### **Big Conversations**

- Treasurer's Report (Emily Block)
  - Income YTD (as of 12/31/2024): \$435,882.08
  - Expenses YTD (as of 12/31/2024): \$428,195.07
  - Budgeted Expenses: \$423,495.00
- Financial Ministry & Overall Ministry Vision for 2025
  - Personnel raises
  - Capital expenditures/potential capital campaign
  - 2025 ministry
    - Sermons
    - Regular in-home visits
    - Worship leadership (discuss at Worship & Music)
    - Youth ministry coordination
    - Sunday school planning/coordination
    - Joint Ministry
  - Jessica motioned to approve the budget. Sherry seconded. Unanimously approved.
- Pastor's report
  - Observations from first small group discussion
  - Met with Pastor Emily Carson from the Synod.

**Next Leadership Meeting:** February 13, 2025 6pm

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

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Olson  
OSLC Secretary