

Our Savior's Congregational Council Meeting
1/21/25: 6:30-9:00

*Created for Relationship with God, all people everywhere, and creation itself
Called to equip people to Serve by growing disciples of Jesus Christ*

1

Present Virtually: Pastor Walter, Pastor Susie, Jeff, Dwight, Kerry, Lauri, Shanna, Deb, and Marianne, Eric

Absent: none

Congregational Members present virtually: Bennett Putnam

- Devotion: Deb
- Call to Order
 - Jeff called the meeting to order
- Approval of January Agenda
 - Lauri made motion to approve agenda following additions
 - Kerry made motion to approve agenda following additions
 - All in favor, agenda approved following additions unanimously
- Approval of December Meeting Minutes
 - Kerry made motion to approve December Meeting Minutes after edits
 - Dwight seconded motion to approve December Meeting Minutes after edits
 - All in favor, motion approved unanimously
- Discussion of 3 Small Focus Groups
 - Know Your Congregation: Jeff, Marianne, Lauri
 - Focusing on the report for the synod to be a more accurate reflection of our congregation
 - Dave Bartholomay and Paul Erickson are planning a “welcome back event” It would be important to include people that haven’t been active at church in a while.
 - Financial Focus Group
 - Kerry- talking to cleaners to outline what is their task and what needs more work.

- Dwight- got outside proposal for waste haulers with \$230 per month savings, Walters matched outside bid so OSLC to stay with current company.
- Noah's Ark/OSLC: Kerry, Shanna
 - Subcommittee met 12/11, another meeting scheduled 2/10
 - Kerry G, Kerri L, Char, Christine working to set a date to meet with insurance broker regarding NA acquiring their own insurance.
- Marketing Team- Deb, Kelly, & Eric
 - No update
- 75th Annual Meeting-Dwight
 - Restroom remodel completed in 1-2 weeks.
 - Now changing focus on sanctuary update.
 - Celebration concert planned for next fall
- Facility Team report- Dwight
 - Sewer cleaning scheduled for next week,(\$3400) Char has been notified.
 - Servpro final inspection done today, all work is complete.
- Security Door Status update- (issues with video, and keypad)- Dwight
 - It was discovered that setting up a new code takes time to be set up due to slower internet speed. When given ~3 minutes, new codes are working.
 - The downstairs door is now set to be open 8am-12pm every Sunday.
- Financials- Kerry
 - Statement of Operations - We have generated \$639.8k in YTD General Income. Our YTD Expenses are \$604.1k. General giving was about normal for a Dec, but with the help of Preparing the Way campaign, we met our goal of not only meeting our 2024 expenses, but also making up for our \$30k stub year deficit. This puts us at +\$35.7 for the year. The unplanned ERC funds received last year as a result of our ERC filing in summer 2023 were \$90k . These funds, reported as income, bring our bottom line to +\$126.6k. We are showing these funds separately from operating numbers as it is our desire to treat them as reserve to further support the new pastor, OSLC ministries, and provide for months where expenses exceed income.
 - Balance Sheet & Cash Flow - The total of cash and accounts receivable is \$292.1k. Funds allocated to dedicated accounts is \$214.2k. This is very positive that we have enough cash to cover our dedicated funds.
- Dwight made a motion to approve financials as presented
- Deb seconded a motion to approve financials as presented

- All in favor, motion to approve financials as presented approved unanimously²
- Budget- Kerry reviewed 2025 budget that will be presented at the annual meeting.
 - Eric made a motion to recommend this budget to the congregation as proposed
 - Lauri seconded the motion to recommend this budget to the congregation as proposed.
 - All in favor, motion passed unanimously.
 - Dwight made a motion to buy HVAC equipment.
 - Lauri seconded the motion to buy HVAC equipment
 - All in favor, motion passed unanimously,
- Personnel Committee-Kerry
 - Jeff talked to Pastor L. on Sunday. Pastor L. wants to engage in things that make sense for him to be a part of before his start date, with the caveat that it doesn't inconvenience us or him.
 - Possible topics to include Pastor L: Loan, Budget, Meet council, New choral director hire
 - Mutual Ministry Team- goal of having this in place 30-60 days after P. L starts at OSLC.
- Action Item: Eric will set up a laptop for P. L. when told everything is official
 - Action Item: Kerry will reach out to Angie Robinson to help with onboarding Pastor L.
- Staffing Update: Walter
 - Director of Choir/Bells Director- down to 2 candidates. Next step is for each of them to meet with Pastor L.
- Annual Meeting Planning-Jeff
 - Discussed agenda for annual meeting including affirmation of covenant during meeting and identification of members to attend synod assembly.
- Congregational Covenant- Deb
 - Plan to start sharing with the congregation this Sunday.
- Action Item: Deb will email covenants to CC members
- Action Item: Deb, Jeff and P. Walter will discuss how to affirm the covenants at the Annual Meeting.
 - Plan Pastor Walter's Final Sunday for Feb 23rd- yet to be determined. P. Walter is talking with synod.
 - Congregational Feedback Given to CC members:

² January 2025

- Chuck is frustrated that Char will not give him and/or Vern a key fob for the downstairs door since they are the first people present on Sunday mornings.
- Lauri has gotten feedback from multiple members that having 1 service is nice as the sanctuary is fuller.
- Pastor Walter's Report
 - Alleluia to the Spirit and people of OSLC in calling Pr Leland to serve as the Lead Pastor! It was a joy to see how your planning and cooperative spirit offered holy space. With Pr Susie, the staff and faithful of OSLC I know God is leading Pr Leland and you to the future!
 - I look forward to serving with you in this quick phase of starting a ministry!
 - I would recommend speaking with Angie Robinson about onboarding a new leader. She shared at HR about her work in this area.
 - There are two important Synod resource events—Feb 1 at St Mark's regarding Spiritual Gifts and Feb 25 Toolkit. Info at Synod website.
- Pastor Susie's Report:
 - Both the Youth Club puppets and percussion performed in worship in December. The kids really seem to be enjoying this change of pace. We polled the families again to see which of the three worship skills their child would like to participate in, and based on those results, we're offering chimes and percussion for the remainder of the year.
 - I completed my annual review of the staff I supervise based on the HR team's format. I'm still waiting on a couple of signatures, but the conversations went well.
 - I led two services on Christmas Eve (the children's service at 11 am and the 10 pm candlelight service.) We had 145 in attendance at each service.
 - We're midway through our 5 weeks of Third Grade Bible classes, which have been meeting between services. We'll be presenting Bibles to the children during the Feb. 2nd service.
 - I did a hospital and a home visit for a member during Pr. Walter's vacation. I also have been in touch with a couple about potentially hosting a wedding at OSLC this summer, as well as a baptism family.

- I sent out a survey to the Young Families Group participants with four different curriculum options. The response rate has been poor, so I'll send another email out to encourage them to complete it.
 - I met with a couple of 6-year-old Scouts to evaluate them for their Jesus and Me emblems. They passed with flying colors, and we'll be awarding them their medals during the worship service on Scout Sunday (Feb. 9th).
 - Unfortunately, the Scout who planned to build the can trailer stairs has left the program. I've reached out to the Scout leaders to see if another Scout would be willing to take the project on. If they aren't, I'll touch base with the Facilities Team to see if they can address this for us, as we need to resolve this soon.
 - Community Confirmation met again this month. We hosted an evening discussing our families and the family of God. Nick put together a game of guess if this is a Bible family or a TV family, which was very entertaining!
 - The high schoolers traveled to Camp Vermillion for their annual Snowfest Retreat. The weather didn't lend itself to much outdoor activities, but the youth came back happy for the time to rest and play. Next year, I hope to join them!
 - Three members joined me for dinner and took a Worship Field Trip to experience a taize service at Minnehaha United Methodist Church in Minneapolis. It was a beautiful service, and we're hoping to visit another congregation in February to continue exploring how different congregations approach these services.
- 4
- The Youth Ministry Team is working on preparing for a Lenten mentoring program. We're in need of mentors, so please sign up! They're also working on upcoming fundraisers for their trip to New Mexico.
 - We've held 3 confirmation workshops in the last month...uff da! We're preparing for our final confirmation retreat of the year in February and looking ahead to celebrating the 9th graders as they prepare to affirm their baptismal promises.
 - The Children's Ministry team is plugging along and planning for their international themed nights in January for Youth Club. VBS registration is live, as is Camp WAPO and WAPO One Day.

- I've gotten confirmation that our dates and service projects are a go, so I'll begin advertising for our All Church Day Camps soon for this summer.
- I've also started writing a book study, which I plan to offer as an Adult Ed series on the book *Faith Formation in a Secular Age* by Andrew Root. My hope is to engage the wider congregation in a discussion about what faith formation has looked like, where it is currently, and where we'd like it to go while recognizing our cultural climate.
- Continuing education: I attended my First Call Theological Retreat (requirement by the synod) at Dunrovin Retreat Center, where we explored our enneagrams and worshiped together. Read *Bless this Mess* by Rev. Molly Baskette and Ellen O'Donnell, PhD; *Habits of the Household: Simple Practices to Help You and Your Family Draw Closer to God* by Justin Whitney Earley, and *Reconciling Scripture for Lutherans On Sexual and Gender Identity* by Austen Hartley and Emmy Kepler.
- Action Items from December meeting:
 - ~~Action Item: Executive board will plan logistics of congregational meeting~~
 - ~~Action Item: Deb will write announcement to notify congregation of congregational meeting~~
 - ~~Action item: Lauri will make edits and send out a revised version to CG members.~~
 - ~~Action Items: Jeff will reach out to everyone that needs to have a report in the annual report.~~
 - ~~Action Item: Deb will talk with the connections team regarding Centennial Chamber of Commerce WinterFest and the Circle Pines 75th Anniversary.~~
- Affirmations: Pat and Roy Feine for repairing the parament rack; Donna Juran, Ruel Carpenter, Pat Benoy and Marilyn & Paul Erickson for painting the new restrooms; John and Renee Dietz for restroom door refinishing; Mark Beaubien for making the chancel inspection opening; Joy R. and Stacy H. for their work with the Christmas Eve puppets worship service; Nigel T. for making a special can trailer pick up this month; Nick G., Charisse F., Evan D. and Bennett P. for accompanying the youth on their retreat; Danielle D, Joy R, Angie R. and team for your work with the 3rd grade Bibles; Deb Morris and Richard Rossiter for all their work on Behavior Covenants; Call Committee for all their work hosting Pastor L.; Renee for leading book study 1/20

- Next meeting date and details- February 2/18/25: 6:30-8:30
- Adjourn
 - Eric made motion to adjourn meeting
 - Dwight seconded motion to adjourn meeting
 - All in favor, motion approved to adjourn unanimously.
- Closing Prayer – Lord’s Prayer
- The Parking Lot: Future items for conversation at CC meetings
 - List of Opportunities Identified by MET team: file in google drive 2024
 - Review/Update of church Wedding pamphlet and fees. - Lauri
 - Contract between OSLC and Noah’s Ark needs to be drafted
 - Define Benevolence-
 - ERC filing update
 - Get OSLC email addresses for Congregational ⁵Council Members- Goal of establishing these after new members voted in at annual meeting
 - 10k allocation of special maintenance
 - Discussion regarding not seeing politics in church

 - Review if members of the same family can be a part of church committees (council, endowment, nominating etc.)

 - Youth create a video of activities they are involved in at OSLC.

⁵ January 2025