

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

Mission: Knowing Jesus & Making Jesus Known

Vision: To be a beacon of light and hope that impacts the world

Church Council Minutes: July 28, 2025

<i>Members in Attendance</i>	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Attending</i>
Kathy Ewald, Chair	Sam Petras (Treasurer)	Pr. Ben Sloss
Jim Bono		Pr. Brian Wise
Cindy Hildner		Pr. Elisabeth Himmelman
Terese Jackway		Jean Jepson
Kelly Hoke		Jacob Himmelman
Dave Mevis		Fran Huff
David Novak		Laurie May (Recording Secretary)
Kris Reenstjerna		
Rachel Petty (Zoom)		
Matt Pickering		
Teresa Thompson		

Opening Prayer Devotion—Matt Pickering

Action Items

- Approval of May Council minutes

A motion to approve the May 2025 minutes was made by Jim Bono and seconded by Matt Pickering. The motion was approved.

- **New members:**

We have 17 new members who have joined Since May 1, 2025

New members by baptism May-July 2025: 7

Mason Healy - Child of Amy and Bob Healy (members)

Marlene Krueger - Child of Lorraine (Schuler) member, Kruger and Robert Kruger

Rosie McGuire - Child of Jaclyn Hoffmeister and Kenneth McGuire (parents interested in membership)

Scottlyn Perez - Child of Jessie Jean Knoble (member) and Jared Anthony Perez

Izzy Turek - Child of Sarah Turek and Joseph Turek (members)

Alexander Golembeck - Child of Randy Golembeck and Michelle Golembeck (members)

Everleigh Norgaard - Child of Sam and Shannon Norgaard (members)

New members by transfer or affirmation: 10

Beatrice Darlene Rodriguez - from woodridge, former catholic

Kristin Nisbet-White, Clifford White, Cameron White (1st grader)

moved from Springfield, IL joined in June

Kristine Pearson - Typically attends 9am service

Molly Klessig - Moved from Bloomington, IL to Naperville, previously attended LCMS congregation but has found a connection at 10am Celebration worship.

Michelle Thomas and Dave Thomas - Transfer from Grace Lutheran church in La Grange. They moved from La Grange to Plainfield, but really they came to see their favorite pastor (Pastor Ben!)

Vikki Breitberg, Michael Breitberg - friends of the Ashcrafts, first visited in January 2024, enjoys celebration worship!

A motion to approve new members was made by Teresa Thompson and seconded by Cindy Hildner. The motion was approved.

Discussion Topics

1. RIC Strategic Plan Presentation

Vicar Emily has focused on the plan as her graduate project working in conjunction with the *RIC in Action* subcommittee of Just Love. “Our Guiding Principles” came out of conversations with staff, Council, and multiple meetings with various groups and committees. She employed SWAT analysis as part of the information gathering process. The purpose of the plan is to define who we are as a congregation as stated in our welcome statement.

Our Guiding Principles

1. Rooted in Scripture, Relationships, and Intersectionality

Our faith calls us to love and welcome all people, seeing Christ in one another. We ground our actions in Scripture, nurture authentic relationships, and embrace the intersectionality of identities within our community.

2. Radical Welcome and Inclusion

We commit to being a church where all people—inclusive of gender, sexual orientation, race, ability, or background—can fully belong. We affirm that God's love is for everyone and work to embody that truth in our words and actions.

3. Listening with Love and Compassion

When disagreements arise, we choose to listen first; we seek to understand one another's perspectives with humility and grace, recognizing that transformation often comes through conversation and connection.

4. Centering the Marginalized

Following Jesus' example, we prioritize voices and experiences that have historically been overlooked, silenced or harmed. Our faith calls us to justice, ensuring that all are seen, heard, and valued.

5. Acting with Courage and Conviction

We are unafraid to live out our faith boldly. Whether in our worship, our service, our advocacy, or our daily interactions, we seek to shine Christ's light in the world—through action, service, and solidarity.

6. Joyful and Hopeful Witness

We embrace joy in our faith journey, celebrating progress and possibilities. We cultivate hope, trusting that God is always at work in and through us, leading us toward a more just and loving world.

7. Creating Spaces for Growth and Transformation

Conflict is not an obstacle but an opportunity. We approach difficult conversations with openness, curiosity, and the expectation that we will grow together as a community of faith.

8. Flexibility in Our Approach, Commitment to Our Vision

While our vision remains steadfast, we recognize that there are many paths to achieving it. We remain adaptable, discerning new ways to live into our mission while staying true to our core values.

9. Building Bridges Across Differences

Within this sacred openness, we remain committed to conversations and actions rooted in love, dignity, and respect for all people. We acknowledge that perspectives can differ, yet we affirm that any form of hatred, exclusion, or diminishing the humanity of another will have no place among us. Together, we strive to embody Christ's expansive, compassionate welcome.

10. Trusting the Holy Spirit in Our Discernment

We leave room for the movement of the Spirit, recognizing that wisdom often emerges when we pause, reflect, and pray. We lean into contemplative practices that guide us toward deeper understanding and faithful action.

“The Work of the Church” incorporates seven ways to live out our welcome statement. This is the work of the whole church, not just a committee. It lists ways to make a shared commitment through:

1. Leadership Accountability & Modeling
2. Worship & Liturgy Integration
3. Congregational Formation & Education
4. Congregational Cultural Shift
5. Ministry & Service Alignment
6. Communication & Visibility
7. Regular Reflection and Growth

- Discussion involved wording statements in a way that they are sustainable and stand the test of time.
- We might separate concrete and aspirational goals. Implementation needs to be done carefully.
- Perhaps set up a RACI by subgroup or committee to see who will take responsibility for overseeing implementation of the seven areas
- May need to narrow down to just a few goals to start
- Each committee needs to consider how they can incorporate the Welcome Statement into their Committee

The Council decided that the goal for this quarter is to specifically address how each Committee can incorporate the Guiding Principles into their work. Council members will work with the committees to see how they can address this.

0, Staffing Updates

The organizational chart was updated. Interviews are ongoing for the Children's Director. In the interim, Emily Moentman will be acting Children's Coordinator. Kim will not be returning. Karen will continue leading Surge and Ignition until someone is hired. Alexandria Colaianni will be coming on as Congregational Wellness Coordinator. The position of Women's Chorale Director is currently open.

0. Flooring Update

Work began last week. Everything was going well until asbestos was discovered as they pulled up the carpeting. The vendor putting in the flooring will not proceed until asbestos abatement is done. If we implement asbestos abatement in all church areas where asbestos is present, it will cost \$45,000. We can save \$10-15,000 if we only address areas within our current flooring plan. While flooring in some storage rooms and the Bach Room may be candidates for abatement in the future, they currently pose no hazard and were not in the approved reflooring plan. The Council was presented with two options:

1. Address asbestos abatement in the areas currently under renovation. Additional funds will also be needed to replace subflooring. Since other areas of the church are in good shape and pose no danger, they will be addressed at a later date.

2. Address asbestos abatement in the flooring of ALL areas of the church where asbestos may be present. This would involve replacing flooring that had not been earmarked for renovation at this time. Besides the additional asbestos abatement cost, we would need to provide funding for replacement flooring that was not in the plan.

The motion was made by Dave Mevis to do asbestos abatement only in the originally scheduled areas. The motion was seconded by Kathy. The motion was approved.

Because the amount will be over \$50,000, Council must approve appropriation of funds.

The motion was made by Dave Mevis to approve funds for asbestos abatement in the originally scheduled areas. The motion was seconded by Kathy. The motion was approved.

Jim Bono made a motion to amend the above motion in that it would be referred to the Finance and Property Committees to decide how to fund the abatement. The motion was seconded by Kris. The motion was approved.

Generative

None

Committee Reports

Finance Committee – Sam Petras

Report coming soon. Finalizing audit.

Youth & Family Ministry Board - Kelly

Co-Chairs: Michele Larson (children), Jon O'Toole (youth)

Secretary: Beth Bartkowicz

Council Rep: Kelly Hoke

Members: Robin Hooper, Kristen Czoher, Gemma Taylor

Staff: Pastor Ben Sloss, Kim Walker, Karen (Kiki) Lindflott, Pastor Elisabeth Himmelman, Vicar Emily Moentmann

Agenda Item	Discussion
Opening Prayer • Vote on YFM Board Guidelines 1. Term language - 1 year for officers 2. Officers -2 - co-chairs - (1) youth and (2) children 3. No vice chair 4. overlap one month (June) 5. changes to bylaws - propose in May - vote in June • Appoint new officers • Co-Chair - Children • Co-Chair - Youth • Secretary • Nominees: Jon - co- chair - youth, Michele - co-chair - children, Beth - secretary Leadership summit on Aug 23	2025/2026 YFMB Goal: ?

Children's Ministry Pastor Elisabeth/Pastor Ben/Kim/Tia • VBS Recap - July 15-18 - 80 registered • Interim Children's Ministry position - Vicar Emily • Status on Search for Director of Children, Youth and Family • Midweek Meet-up Changes ○ Meals ○ Schedule ○ Children's Choir • Kids Club - Thursdays • 2025-26 School Year Calendar Work-In-Progress • Beginning of the year dates: ○ Aug 17 - Backpack Blessing ○ Aug 23 - Leader Training ○ Aug 24 - First Day SS ○ Sep 3 - First Night Midweek Meetup	80 registered. 5th Graders
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Jr. High Ministry - Surge Pastor Elisabeth/Kiki • Summer Activities: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Ya8ZZJVc6s8lh40x7x0l-vl8srvzOiSb/edit?usp=sharing&oid=114407366011466823067&rtpof=true&sd=true (mailed to incoming 6-8th grade on June 12) 2025 - 26 School Year Calendar Work-In-Progress Ignition Pastor Ben/Kiki • 2025 - 26 School Year Calendar • Work in Progress • Summer Activities	7/24 - Centennial Beach Other activities during VBS Sensory-friendly movie @ AMC on 8/9 August 24 - Kick off Open House (with Ignition)
Family Ministry Pastor Elisabeth/ Pastor Ben • Family retreat Recap: 7/12-13 (7 families) • Music on the Farm (4-6pm) • Sunday, July 13 • Sun, August 10	
Ignition Pastor Ben/Kiki • 2025 - 26 School Year Calendar - Work in Progress • Summer Activities	
Closing Remarks/ Prayer • Invitation to Diversity Training for working with youth on Autism Spectrum:	

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| ○ Wed, July 30 @ 11:30-1pm, Soaring Eagle Academy | |
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Celebration Children's Center (The Preschool)

No Report

HR Committee

No Report

Stewardship/Endowment - David Novak

Pastor Brian shared that we will be kicking off this year's stewardship campaign on October 17th with a "Life Together" trivia event.

Worship & Arts – Cindy Hildner

Pastor Brian reported:

Each worship service, we all come to Christ's table to receive Holy Communion, a sacred gift from God that reminds us of Jesus' radical love. This meal belongs to everyone who walks through our doors, and it unites us in grace and hope.

Recently, you might have noticed our communion bread has taken on a new shape and flavor. When our longtime supplier closed, we saw an invitation to prayerfully explore what would be best for all, with a congregation our size. In listening to many voices in our church, including those living with celiac disease or gluten sensitivity, we felt called to offer gluten-free bread at every station, so that no one has to worry about their health while receiving this gift.

To bring this vision to life, we are forming a *Bread Making Team*. This ministry will meet in a gluten-free kitchen for training during August and September. Team members will bake loaves for worship about every six to eight weeks, depending on our schedule and need. Whether you are an experienced baker or eager to learn, your hands and heart will help us serve Christ and neighbor.

If you would like to learn more or sign up, please email Lin at lschollm@att.net or reach out to me at pastorbrian@oursaviours.com. We cannot wait to bake, pray, and serve together as the Body of Christ and share this gift with you this fall.

Worship Attendance: provided by Kathy Clolinger, Accounting Manager

		In Person Attendance					YouTube Views		
		<u>5:00</u>	<u>9:00</u>	<u>10:00</u>	<u>11:00</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>9:00/ 11:00</u>	<u>10:00</u>	<u>Total</u>
6/1/2025	Annual Meeting	32	357			389	137		137
6/8/2025		51	140	70	64	325	103	36	139
6/15/2025		35	117	103	58	313	45	24	69
6/22/2025		38	83	80	43	244	69	24	93
6/29/2025		47	164	56	64	331	66	28	94
7/6/2025		38	100	56	43	237	57	33	90
7/13/2025		49	113	65	89	316	64	32	96
7/20/2025	VBS wrap up at 11:00	43	147	70	149	409	67	40	107

Mission and Benevolence—Graham Brenna

No Report

Nominating Committee—Matt Pickering

No Report

Property Committee—Jim Harms (Dave Mevis & Kris Reenstjerna)

No Report

Just Love—Andrea Field

Just Love met on June 2nd to prepare for the Aurora Pride Parade. We marched in Aurora on June 8th. We are scheduled to be at Naper Pride at Naper Settlement on September 13. We did not meet in July nor are we scheduled to meet in August.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Field

Just Love “Building and Sustaining Community” - Jim Bono

1) A quarterly meeting was held with Jean Jepson, Christy LaFave-Grace, Teresa Thompson and Jim Bono to outline the development of mission, ministry and other stories for OSLC communication vehicles over the Fall months.

2) Jim Bono developed a brief PowerPoint presentation outlining the timing (and some impacts) of the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act” – which was shared with the Pastoral Staff. The presentation may be of some value as we consider the impact of programmatic cuts on members of our congregation. Jim also shared copies with the leader of the Naperville Interfaith Leadership Alliance and the DuPage League of Women Voters and Andrea Field as chair of Just Love.

Caring for Creation: Sunday, October 5th Intergenerational Greener Christmas

Saturday, September 13, Naperville Pride Fest. Looking for people to sign up for shifts at our booth. 11:30 - 7pm

Other business:

Unfinished Business: None

Next Meeting:

Monday, August 25, 2025— Opening Devotion by Dave Mevis

Closing Prayer: Matt Pickering

Notes submitted by Laurie May, Recording Secretary