

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: August 25, 2025

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

Opening Prayer Devotion—Kathy Ewald

Action Items

- Approval of July Council minutes

A motion to approve the July 2025 minutes was made by Jim Bono and seconded by Teresa Thompson. The motion was approved.

Discussion Topics

1. Staff Updates

Alexandra Colaianne has begun in the position of Wellness Coordinator (20 hours) and Brittany Sheldon has come on as Children Youth and Family Coordinator. Emily Moentmann will continue for one month, and Kiki for two months to help Brittany as she transition into the role.

2. Flooring/asbestos removal update

The flooring is in! The asbestos abatement went smoothly and was done within a week and a half. With the heavy rain, water came into the newly floored Fellowship Center. It was cleaned up quickly and installers were still here to replace carpet tiles as the adhesive had not yet cured. The water came in at an Emergency door.

This also happened 25 years ago during heavy rain. The Property Committee is looking at a long-term solution.

We have someone who is interested in donating funds for some new furnishings.

3. Council member check-in

We are looking forward to Council member check-ins with different committees. They are looking for needs and ways of being available to the Committee members. If a Council member plans to attend a Committee meeting, they are encouraged to check with the Committee chair ahead of time to find out when and where the meeting will take place..

Kris and Teresa checked in with the Stewardship Committee. They highlighted the Trivia Night coming up on October 17th.

Teresa visited a number of committees during the summer: RIC in Action, Caring for Creation, Stewardship, Memorial Committee, Women's Ministry, Mega Garage Sale, and the Mission Board. She is impressed with the many caring and active people she has met.

Pastor Brian encouraged Council members to occasionally check in at staff meetings on Tuesdays.

Cindy went to Diversity Training at a school for children on the autism spectrum. The church is working to provide more diversity accommodations in Sunday School.

Visits to Committees are an opportunity to remind their group to live into our Guiding Principles.

Council members heard positive comments about the Life Together Summit on Saturday.

Generative

None

Committee Reports

Finance Committee – Sam Petras

An internal audit will be used instead of using an outside firm. After a few years, we can return to using an outside firm.

I just uploaded the financial reports to via Google Drive. Here are some of the key highlights from Ju

-Operating cash balance increased \$12k during July

NOTE: We are well above the \$150k threshold

-FY26 - giving up 27% \$20k vs. same period last year and down 2% \$2k vs. budget

NOTE: Interest is up \$2k; giving is down (\$2k).

-FY26 - comp & benefits is \$75k (78%) vs. \$97k giving

NOTE: Budget for July 85%; last July Actual 93%.

-63% of 2025 pledged gifts received through July (58% of calendar year is complete)

NOTE: 2024 pledged gift budget was \$731k; 2025 pledged gift budget is \$821k.

All six of the ERC checks have been received, totaling \$710,415.31. This includes the full submission amounts for the six quarters received along with interest.

Youth & Family Ministry Board - Kelly

Celebration Children's Center (The Preschool)

HR Committee

Stewardship/Endowment - David Novak

Worship & Arts – Cindy Hildner

Pastor Brian reported

- At this time, gluten-free communion wafers/bread will be purchased through an outside distributor. Work is ongoing to determine a plan for the Bread Making Team to make gluten-free communion breads.
- There was good attendance at the "Life Together Summit" with positive energy from the congregation as Our Saviour's moves forward into the next year.
- Nicholas Davis, Worship Director 9 AM & 11 AM, will be directing the Women's Choral with an information session occurring next Sunday, 8/31/25.

Chris Brown reported:

- The Beatles music service was a success and we will continue to look for other opportunities to also include Nicholas and Kevin.
- The 5:00 service will have some occasional changes to style to see how we can provide for new opportunities to involve others into that service.
- We are finding ways to use the gifts of some of our high school youth who are great singers in hopes to inspire other youth to use their gifts as well.

Nicholas Davis reported:

- On August 24th, we changed to ELW Setting 3 Liturgy at 9:00 and a modified *Now the Feast* Liturgy at 11:00, which will continue through Christ the King Sunday.
- Some of the special music in July and August included Men's Sing Chorus at all services during the weekend of August 23/24, The Brass Ensemble at the 9:00 service on August 24 and The Sax Ensemble in July. The Sax Ensemble will be playing twice in September.
- Sanctuary Choir starts Wednesday, August 27th, from 6:45-8:15, Handbell Rehearsal begins Tuesday, Sept 2 at 7pm, and Children's Choir Rehearsal begins Wednesday, Sept 3rd at 6:30 pm.

Attendance provided by Kathy Clolinger, Accounting Manager

		Attendance sheet not provided, estimated							
		In Person Attendance					YouTube Views		
		5:00	9:00	10:00	11:00	Total	9:00/11:00	10:00	Total
8/24/2025		64	186	74	57	381	70	37	107

8/17/2025		60	79	102	40	281	175	26	201
8/10/2025	One service at Celebration			209		209		96	96
8/3/2025	One service Loaves & Fishes (did not stream)		250			250			-
7/27/2025		50	114	74	62	300	72	35	107

Mission and Benevolence—Graham Brenna

Nominating Committee—Matt Pickering

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

Just Love—Andrea Field

Other business:

There was strong OSLC representation at the Naperville City Council meeting this month regarding the energy renewal contract.

OSLC will have a table at Naper Pride Fest on September 13th

OSLC Church Merch store is being put up online any day now.

Unfinished Business: None

Next Meeting:

Monday, September 22, 2025— Opening Devotion by Dave Mevis

Closing Prayer: Kathy Ewald

Notes submitted by Laurie May, Recording Secretary