

# 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: May 18, 2026

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

### Opening Prayer Devotion—Matt Pickering

### Action Items

- Approval of April Council Meeting minutes

***A motion to approve the April 2026 minutes was made by Dave Mevis and seconded by Matt Pickering. The motion was approved.***

- Update of New Members (Quarterly)

### New members report May 2026

Label	Title	First Name	Last Name	Joined how?	Primary Email	Date Joined
Mark Bergren		Mark	Bergren		<a href="mailto:mhbergren@gmail.com">mhbergren@gmail.com</a>	04/13/2026
Alison Chaussey		Alison	Chaussey		<a href="mailto:alliechaussey@gmail.com">alliechaussey@gmail.com</a>	04/23/2026
Erik Chaussey		Erik	Chaussey		<a href="mailto:echaussey@gmail.com">echaussey@gmail.com</a>	04/23/2026
Jake Chaussey		Jacob	Chaussey		<a href="mailto:jacobchaussey@gmail.com">jacobchaussey@gmail.com</a>	04/23/2026
Madilyn Chaussey		Madilyn	Chaussey		<a href="mailto:madilynchaussey@gmail.com">madilynchaussey@gmail.com</a>	04/23/2026
Dee Cordell		Dee	Cordell		<a href="mailto:zcordell@gmail.com">zcordell@gmail.com</a>	01/19/2026
Sophia Fowler		Sophia	Fowler	Baptism		04/26/2026
Theo Jamal		Omowale	Jamal		<a href="mailto:theoams@gmail.com">theoams@gmail.com</a>	05/02/2026
Ken Koepke		Ken	Koepke		<a href="mailto:koepkekm@gmail.com">koepkekm@gmail.com</a>	03/12/2026

Susan Koepke		Susan	Koepke		<a href="mailto:koepkesj@gmail.com">koepkesj@gmail.com</a>	03/12/2026
Kristine Kruse		Kristine	Kruse		<a href="mailto:kristinemkruse@gmail.com">kristinemkruse@gmail.com</a>	05/02/2026
Chase Marshall		Chase	Marshall		<a href="mailto:lacey2887@gmail.com">laceym2887@gmail.com</a>	04/23/2026
Chris Marshall		Christopher	Marshall		<a href="mailto:chrismarshall@gmail.com">chrismarshall@gmail.com</a>	04/11/2026
Lacey Marshall		Lacey	Marshall		<a href="mailto:lacey2887@gmail.com">laceym2887@gmail.com</a>	04/23/2026
Michael Marshall		Michael	Marshall		<a href="mailto:mikemarshall86@gmail.com">mikemarshall86@gmail.com</a>	04/23/2026
Nolan Marshall		Nolan	Marshall		<a href="mailto:lacey2887@gmail.com">laceym2887@gmail.com</a>	04/23/2026
Susan Marshall		Susan	Marshall		<a href="mailto:susanm414@gmail.com">susanm414@gmail.com</a>	04/11/2026
Owen Sippel		Owen	Sippel	Baptism		02/01/2026
Parker Sippel		Parker	Sippel	Baptism		02/01/2026
Eva Vincent		Eva	Vincent		<a href="mailto:eva.ann.vincent@gmail.com">eva.ann.vincent@gmail.com</a>	05/05/2026
Heath Walker		Heath	Walker	Baptism		04/12/2026

***Motion to accept new members made by Kathy Ewald and seconded by Dave Mevis, and motion approved.***

## Discussion Topics

### 1. 2026-2027 Budget

***Vote to send the 2026-2027 budget to the congregation for approval at the Annual Meeting. Motion was made by Teresa Thompson and seconded by Kris Reenstjerna. The motion was approved.***

### 2. Endowment Committee Member Nominees

**Vote to approve the list of the Endowment Committees slate to go to the congregation for approval at the annual meeting. Reelection of Cam Kniss, Leann Nasman, and Mike Pura and new members Kevin Andrews, Jeff Colianni, and Greg Hooper.**

**Motion made by Terese Jackway and seconded by Cindy Hildner. The motion passed.**

### 3. Annual Meeting

Voting is live or by Zoom only. We are following the rules as set up by the parliamentarian several years ago. Cindy will send out an email to volunteers at the annual meeting. Jim Bono, Terese, Kris, Teresa, Kelly, and Dave will be there to help.

In-person forum will be Wednesday, May 20th 7pm at Our Saviour's Campus

Online forum on Zoom will be Thursday, May 28th

Annual Meeting will be Sunday May 31. Only one service will be held that weekend at 9:00 am followed by the annual meeting.

#### **4. Council Sponsored Mozambique Backpack**

The Mozambique Committee reached out to Kathy to ask if the Church Council could sponsor putting together a backpack of supplies. Each backpack has about \$200 worth of supplies. Contact Kathy if you would like to contribute. Kathy will make up the difference if enough is not collected.

#### **5. Executive Session**

Kathy Ewald made the motion to go into Executive Session. It was seconded by Dave Mevis. The motion was approved.

Kathy Ewald motioned that the Executive Session be closed and it was seconded by Cindy Hildner. The motion was approved.

## **Generative**

### **1. None**

## **Committee Reports**

### **Finance Committee – Sam Petras**

#### **Key Highlights from April**

-Operating cash balance increased \$13k during April

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

-FY26 - Giving up 10% \$11k vs. same period last year and up 2% \$3k vs. budget

NOTE: Giving is up \$3k; rent is down (\$3k); interest is up \$0.5k; programs are down (\$2.5K).

-FY26 - Comp & Benefits is \$79k (66%) vs. \$119k giving

NOTE: Budget for April 71%; last April Actual 68%. YTD Actual 71% vs Budget 80%.

-46% of 2026 pledged gifts received through April (33% of calendar year is complete)

NOTE: 2026 pledged gift budget is \$783k; 2025 pledged gift budget was \$821k; 2024 pledged gift budget was \$731k.

I also uploaded the 2nd pass of the Operating budget. Kathy C tweaked the expenses for the upcoming Synod meeting. The rest of the budget remains the same. No changes to the Preschool budget.

Here are some key highlights of the 3 Year Operating Forecast along with the 3 Year Capital Reserve Forecast:

#### **3 Year Operating Forecast**

##### **Revenue**

-Total Gifts are projected to increase by 2% for FY28 and FY29

-Rental Revenue is projected to increase 2% YoY for FY28 and FY29

-Edward Parking lot rent projected increase 3% YoY per contract terms for FY28 and FY29

-Interest Income is projected at 3.5% for FY28 and FY29

-Children's Center Benevolence is projected to increase 1% YoY for FY28 and FY29

-Program pass thru Revenue, and Miscellaneous Income are projected to remain flat YoY for FY28 and FY29

#### Expenses

-Synod Pledge and Allocation to Mission Committee will remain the same (5% of Revenue)

-We will continue to pledge \$180,000 to Capital Projects in FY28 and FY29.

-Compensation is projected to increase 4% YoY for FY28 and FY29

-Remaining expenses are projected to increase 5% YoY for FY28 and FY29

#### **3 Year Capital Reserve Forecast**

-Projected End of FY26 June 30 2026 Balance \$220,000.00

-Projected Funding from Operations FY27 - FY29 \$180,000.00 (PER YEAR)

-FY27 Projected Capital Project Budget \$187,500

-FY28 Projected Capital Project Budget \$187,500

-FY29 Projected Capital Project Budget \$187,500

**-Projected End of FY29 June 30 2029 Balance \$197,500.00** (NOTE: Goal of \$100,000 Minimum Balance Every June 30)

## **Youth & Family Ministry Board - Kelly Hoke**

### **The Children Youth and Family Ministry Board Focus**

- In May we performed a high school Ignition SWOT Analysis to assess strengths, weaknesses, opportunities to grow, and threats. Ignition will be moving to Wednesday nights in the fall. This will allow for all age groups to be together for a meal before joining their age level groups.

### **Key Ministry-Wide Updates**

- VBS is the week of June 22. About 50 children are registered.
- The last day of Sunday School is May 17th
- The CYFM board will meet again in June to reflect on the year and plan for the fall. There will not be a meeting in July.

## **Celebration Children's Center - Terese**

On May 4, 2026, the Council affirmed via e-email vote to increase the expenditure for the pre-school flooring that is to be completed during the summer.

## **HR Committee - Kathy Ewald**

Mark LoVerde rolled off the committee after 6 years of service. He is thanked for the time and gifts he shared in service to the group.

The committee is looking for additional members to serve. Send recommendations to Jean Jepson.

## Endowment and Stewardship - Dave Mevis

Nothing to add beyond sending the slate of Endowment Committee members to the congregation for approval at the annual meeting, as reported above in Discussion Topic #2.

## Worship and Arts - Cindy Hildner

Nicholas Davis reported the following highlights:

On May 10th, we installed Jim Stellmacher as the Contemporary Worship Leader. We also thanked Matthew Felbein for serving as interim leader and presented him with a token of appreciation.

All the music ensembles have wrapped up their seasons.

Nicholas has put out a call for summer special music for our services.

The Worship and Arts Board will meet again on June 4th (Date may change)

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>
5/17/2026	65	125	72	34	296	63	36		
5/10/2026	53	159	98	64	374	66	33	99	
5/3/2026	42	108	65	65	280	90	43	133	
4/26/2026	57	130	116	73	376	76	69	145	
4/19/2026	45	112	95	42	294	42	34	76	
4/12/2026	43	150	74	48	315	56	23	79	

## Wellness - Jim Bono

### Property Committee - Dave Mevis

The Property Committee is working with the “labyrinth project team” to ensure any needed subsurface work is completed on the site prior to installation of the labyrinth, in order to ensure maximum useful life of the installation.

### Mission and Benevolence - Teresa Thompson

#### I. FINANCE: Review of OSLC ministry funds and benevolent partners

	Fund Name	Point Person	Balance May 26	Description and/or information
1	Baby Care	Betty Landorf	\$4345.49	
2	Bridge Families	Cathy Cayer	\$0.00	Meets with designated families to assist with rent and/or other options as determined by the group (i.e. gift cards).
3	Educating Africa's Children (Uganda)	Jan and Tom Dusek	\$1,033	Voted today to disperse <b>\$1,000</b>
4	Feed My Starving Children	Les May	\$9408.78	Voted today to disperse <b>\$2,500</b>
5	Feed The Need	Les May	\$7,858.50	An area-wide church event connected to Feed My Starving Children. We act as the bank for funds generated and paid out to host this event.
6	Fuhrer Scholarship Fund		\$10,126.73	This is a memorial fund, but the church does add to it in order to give more scholarships.
7	Haiti Scholars	Nicole Waite	265.00	
8	Loaves & Fishes	Nancy Couch	\$435.23	
9	Lutheran Social Services of IL (LSSI)	David Novak	\$7,490.00	Voted today to disperse <b>\$4,000</b>
10	Lutheran Disaster Relief	Pastor Brian Wise	\$1,235.00	100% of congregational donations go to this, but the church also adds to these donations.
11	Mega Garage Sale	Debbie Friend	\$6,028.11	Collects items from the community and then sells them. All money goes to covering expenses and then to a variety of charities..
12	Mozambique	Susan Fergusen	\$78,905.80	Voted today to disperse <b>\$9,000</b>
13	Refugee Ministries	Jim Bono and Lee Thomsen	\$6,470.09	Currently, refugees are white South Africans, not needing assistance.
14	Slovakia	Gail Jernberg	\$6,236.14	The partnership built a church in Nitra, then a school in Martin, & transitioned to a continuing relationship.
15	World Hunger	Jim Bono and Lee Thomsen	\$12,000.00	
16	MBC Undesignated	Pastor Brian Wise	\$50,713.06	

	Groups w/out accounts	Point Person	Description and/or information
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A	Bright Stars of Bethlehem	Pastor Ben Sloss	
B	ELCA Synod	Pastor Brian Wise	Monthly, the church gives 5% to the synod.
C	Holy Family Ministries	Jan Dusek	The church collects donations of books, school supplies, and gift cards.
D	Lutheran Seminary of Theology at Chicago (LSTC)	Pastor Brian Wise	There are currently no funds to allocate at this time.
E	Riverwalk Adult Day Services	Pastor Brian Wise	Currently waiting for the group to connect with us in order to continue working with them.
F	Samara Care	Pastor Brian Wise	To learn more about them, Pastor Elizabeth Pynn Himmelman is serving on the board along with church members going to their meetings.

2. BJ Okel moved and Greg seconded a motion to distribute the following amounts for **LSSI** (\$4,000). The motion was amended to include **Educating Africa's Children** (\$1,000), **Feed My Starving Children** (\$2,500), and **Mozambique** (\$9,000). All were in favor.
3. There was a proposal to give any surplus monies from this year to school lunch overdrafts. Pastor Brian will investigate both 203 and 204's situations and come back to the group with options.

## II. Discussion regarding possible new and current mission partners.

### A. **Sleep in Heavenly Peace:** Dave Thomas

A description was provided of what the group does, where they operate from, and where their beds are distributed. It was decided to have the group go through the five-step process of becoming a mission partner. This group is to proceed to step 2. B.J. moved this and Warren seconded.

#### **The group reviewed the components of the 5-step process.**

1. Pray for them
2. Invite church members to attend sessions they offer.
3. Host - Allow them to offer sessions at or through our church.
4. Allow fundraising
5. Allocate budgeted money for part of their funding.

### B. **Grow Wellness**

It was proposed that we open up a relationship with Grow Wellness. They do group and 1-1 services. Some of their services include art, music, and yoga therapy (and more). Some church members are on their board. It was moved by Julie to allow Grow Wellness to open up stages 1-3. BJ seconded. All approved.

### C. **SLOVAKIA**

- a. The Slovakia team is asking for money from the Fuhrer Scholarship fund to supplement Slovakian student's costs to travel here. A discussion ensued to review guidelines for this fund. Julie moved to NOT allocate money from the Fuhrer Scholarship Fund as this request doesn't honor the fund's intention. Warren seconded. The group was all in agreement.
- b. We discussed a scholarship request for money from the Fuhrer Scholarship Fund to assist with costs on the Slovakia trip. Since the church is already supplementing the cost of the trip, the request was declined.

## III. CALENDAR

6. The date for the next mission board meeting is Thursday, July 9, 2026 at Barrel & Heritage in Naperville.
7. Meet at OSLC on Thursday, August 6, 2026 at 7pm with all of the mission partners to discuss the following:
  - a. Scheduling of their events for the 2026-2027 year.
  - b. Fundraising requests for the coming 2026-2027 year.
  - c. Determining when these groups will meet with us two times per year

## **Memorials - Kris Reenstjerna**

1. Next meeting: October 14, 2026.

## **Just Love - Rachel Petty**

Aurora Pride Parade planning is taking place. Come join us! June 14, Parade starts at noon, lineup at 10:30. June 9th is a pre-parade party to staple Welcome Statements to beads for distribution.

## **Caring for Creation - Terese Jackway**

Sunday School Planting Day took place on 5/17 with 20+ participants. Multiple planters were filled with flowers and herbs to attract pollinators and bring people joy. The children had fun digging in the dirt and watering their plants. They even told them some jokes and sang some songs to help them grow! There was even time for a story/puppet show of The Very Hungry Caterpillar at the end. Check out some pictures from the Celebration class online.

Planning is underway for recycling at the Mega Garage sale. Communications will be shared with all the items we'll be accepting this year.

Additional discussions are taking place with Urban Canopy about their composting program to determine if we'd like to use their services.

Meeting with Urban Canopy. Focus on PCs for People and other electronic devices can be recycled at the Garage Sale.

**Unfinished Business:** None

## **Next Meeting:**

Monday, June 22, 2026 — Opening Devotion - Pastor Brian Wise

**Closing Prayer:** Matt Pickering