

# Our Saviours Lutheran Church

**Mission: Knowing Jesus & Making Jesus Known**

**Vision: To be a Beacon of Light & Hope that impacts the World**

**Church Council Meeting: March 16, 2019**

**Council members present:** Graham Brenna, Robyn Carlson, Brett Lindberg, Susan Miller, Ruth Nelson, Steve Spayer, Glenn Wishnew, B.J. Okel, Rebecca Cremin

**Attendees:** Pr. John Gerike, Pr. Brian Wise, Rick Lebeck (Finance Committee)

**Guest:** Kelly Gilligan

**Recorder:** Laurie May

**Absent:** Pastor Emily (at Women's Retreat)

**I. Opening Prayer / Devotion** – Glenn Wishnew: The Old and New Testaments together reveal God's message to us

**II. Guest** – Kelly Gilligan – Celebration Pre School

Kellie Gilligan, Director, gave a short financial history of the Preschool. Since 2011, the preschool has given a benevolence back to Church. The Preschool's revenue comes solely from tuition, with a current budget of \$655,000. They currently give a benevolence of \$10,000 a month for 12 months. \$170,000 was given this year, which includes a portion from revenue from summer camps. The school keeps a surplus in their account for unforeseen expenses. They worked with Lee Selander to figure out a recommended surplus amount. Ruth asked if documents still exist from opening of preschool. Not very many do exist. Pastor Brian suggested taking a year to clarify the relationship between Church and Preschool, then recommitting to that relationship

**Recommended follow-up:** Conversation between Finance, Building, and Preschool to define and formalize the relationship between the Church and Preschool.

**II. Action Items:**

1. Realm Checkin to today's meeting
2. Approval of February 2019 Council Meeting Minutes They were approved with deletion of the red text. Brett motioned, Glenn seconded, and the motion was passed to approve the minutes.
3. Approval of New Members (Rebecca Cremin motioned, BJ Okel seconded) Passed

**New Members:**

Lindsay Warriner

Noah Warriner

Leslie Parker

Michael Blanton

Dawn Blanton

Matthew Blanton

Anne Linne

Dave Linne

Susan Leibforth  
William Leibforth (Bill)

**Baptisms:**

Amelia Marie Engel Brooks  
Olivia Mary Fratini  
Paxton Alan King

4. Council Elections –

**Chair:** Steve Spayer (Graham Brenna nominated, Susan Miller seconded) Passed  
**2nd Vice Chair** Glenn Wishnew: (Ruth Nelson nominated, Steve Spayer seconded) Passed  
**Secretary** Susan Miller (Ruth Nelson nominated, Glen seconded) Passed  
**Treasurer:** Rick Lebeck (Steve Spayer nominated, Ruth Nelson seconded) Passed

**III. Discussion Topics**

1. **Recent Estate gift to OSLC** – Maxine Hogstad, past member, gave a \$12,500 undesignated gift. One half goes to endowment and the other half is the Council's decision (Deferring decision for now)

2. **Council Liaisons** – revisit assignments to factor in new members

Search Committee - Robin Carlson  
Finance - Robin Carlson  
Property - Brett Lindberg  
Faith Formation - BJ Okel  
Stewardship - Steve Spayer  
Memorial - Glenn Wishnew  
Missions - Graham Brenna  
Communications - Rebecca Cremin  
Endowment - Susan Miller,  
Human Resources - Ruth Nelson,  
Nominating - Glenn Wishnew

3. **Strategic Planning** – Tentatively meeting March 30th ½ day (Spring Break, some people out) May have to reconsider date.

4. **Council Retreat** – ½ day (8-12), Saturday, April 6th – location at Celebration The agenda will be in Dropbox and will involve the 3-5 year vision and strategic plan

5. **Synod Assembly** – Friday and Saturday, June 7 & 8, 2019 (also Garage Sale dates). We will be sending 5 people, with 2 already expressing interest. Anyone else interested should contact the church office. Attendees should be determined by 04/01/19

6. **Realm** – Ruth is on the committee that is meeting monthly.

a. Focus is individual profile data quality. Also need to update group data quality. Pastor hierarchy.

- b. Training group leaders is planned for Sept., hoping that Realm will have some issues resolved by then.
- c. Considering 1 Year Realm Birthday party in May

Discussion: Perhaps small group checkin on Realm would be useful.

Survey to track 5 principles of vision and mission statement

Test with select small groups. Limited launch might be most effective

Updating website; Tracking metrics and using analytics to see where problems may lie.

Analytics are there, but not being checked.

## **7. Annual Meeting Topics**

Make meeting more engaging

Financial reserve levels

Consider mission areas

**IV. Generative** – If OSLC is but a part of the body of the broader Church what can we be doing to engage with the other parts of the body; within the ELCA? Within our community – with church defined as “houses of worship”? What might some first steps be? What might we hope to accomplish?

- Reaching out to counterparts in other local churches of different denominations. Shared missions that could be coordinated (i.e. Senior Luncheons)
- ELCA Global Missions event coming up.
- Feed the Need St. Louis started with local church now gone community wide. (Much like what we do here.)
- Conversations with other local Lutheran churches. Learning about similar issues. Would be consider shared internship with St. Tim’s?
- Naperville Interfaith exists, but we don’t have a strong presence.

## **VI. Committee Reports:**

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE** - Rick Lebeck

In February we were up \$40,000 in envelope giving

Stock gifts of 10,000 and 30,000 (Policy is to cash immediately)

Envelope giving up 12,000 YTD on budget

Net beat budget by 49,000 in Feb.

\$34,000 favorability in property insurance now paying quarterly instead of annually

YTD net up 91,000 operating vs. budget

Financial staff transitions: Kathy Clolinger started Monday, She is a CPA, has an accounting degree and MBA, and formerly worked at Arthur Anderson. She will be working 20-24 hours per week. John Walsh of AMC Accounting here through transition

Wintrust banking transition. No more BMO Harris deposits.

On April 1st Children's Center will move over.

Offering count is more automated through Realm. It has streamlined the process and reduces hours needed. Currently we have 50/50 electronic to in-person giving. We are encouraging electronic giving, but we considered ways to model giving for children. Perhaps showing percentage of electronic giving on screen before service. More education may be needed on types of electronic giving. The finance committee wants to migrate all electronic giving over to Realm.

Budget:

The Children's Center Budget done for next year. (3% tuition increase for next year)

Operations has until the end of March to get back to the Committee. (Looking at 5 year budget and allocation of staff)

Property Committee: Good idea of what's coming for next 18 months, but need to figure out 5 year projection.

The Quarterly Financial Report will be included in the Weekly Connections .

#### **SEARCH COMMITTEE - Robin Carlson**

About 20 resumes submitted for Director of Worship and Music position. The Committee will be meeting on Sunday.

#### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE - Robin Carlson**

They are working on members of the Endowment Committee

#### **HR COMMITTEE - Ruth Nelson**

Accounting transition is going well. We welcome Marcy Anderson as the new director of Children's Ministry. Thanks to Chrissy Ball for helping with the transition.

#### **PROPERTY COMMITTEE - Brett Lindberg**

Work on the new sign will start in the next 2-4 weeks. Cross will be moved. Electrical and removal of old sign will be done by a different company. Target for completion is in May. HVAC specs coming in on Roof K. The Committee will be finalizing 5 year capital plan by April 15.

#### **MISSION & BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE - Graham Brenna**

40,000 in account by end of fiscal year

\$10,000 mission emergency contingency for disaster relief

\$13,000 Replenish Linda Fuhrer Fund

\$3,000 Every Day Hero fund (earmarked pending further discussion)

\$2,000 OSLC Mission Camps (Preschool and Elementary)

\$2,000 Young Adults and Global Missions (YAGM)

\$2,000 ELCA Fund for Leaders

\$2,000 Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Camp (LOMC)

\$2,000 Lutheran School of Theology (LSTC)  
\$2,000 Opportunity International  
\$2,000 Concordia Place

**MEMORIALS COMMITTEE** - Glenn Wishnew  
Meeting at end of March

**ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE**- Susan Miller  
12,000 gift from Maxine Hogsted  
Estate planning workshop in May or September for members of the congregation

**STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE** - Pastor John  
In early April, we will be having a meeting coordinating people that are raising funds for different purposes.

**FAITH FORMATION COMMITTEE**- BJ Okel  
BJ shared his thoughts on finding a way to get Gen Y and Millennials more involved church.  
Possibly relaunch financial planning seminars targeting the younger generation.

**VII. Next Meeting – Key Dates: -**

- March 20 – Lenten Soup – Provide & Serve Arrive 4:30 if you can
- March 30 – Strategic Plan Leadership meeting
- April 6 – Council Retreat (8-12)
- April 13 – Council Meeting - Opening Devotion – Graham Brenna

**IX. Closing** – The Lord's Prayer

Minutes respectfully submitted by Laurie May