

**Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Council minutes**  
**June 20, 2023**

Call to Order (6:33)

People present: Ashley Dellwo, Joyce Nelson, Lori Mikel, Amy Buechler, Lloyd Menke, Rod Risch. Steve Gomez, John Erickson, Joel Rosa-Hegener, Heidi Lund, Tricia Agen, Ellen McCullough

People absent: none

Devotions: Steve Gomez

Congregation Update: Heidi Lund

Consent motion:

May 16, 2023 Council Minutes

Tricia moved acceptance, Rod seconded, motion carries

June 13, 2023 President's Committee

John moved acceptance, Tricia seconds, Motion carries

Treasurer's Report: Ashley Dellwo

May giving up about \$20k from 2022; down 6% yoy. Attendance up yoy. We've gained back about \$20k of the shortfall which we faced in May. About \$100k behind this year's budget. Projection for the year at present rates of expenses and income, we show about a \$72k shortfall (can cover this from cash reserves but we'll be depleting those substantially). A portion of the reserves are now in cd's at nearly 5% interest; we can keep rolling that depending upon needs. That is a better rate of return than the money market account they were previously in.

Ellen moves acceptance; Amy seconds. Motion carries

Business:

- Madeline Peterson catering request—Joyce Nelson

Madeline has a new catering business; she's asked if we would be willing to rent her our kitchen for a couple of hours a few times a month to prepare food for events which happen elsewhere. Lori noted that this is in line with previous discussion regarding considering alternative revenue sources. We need to know a bit more about when she'd want it. We need to understand whether we would have to treat this as income, requiring a separate entity to receive the money, as well as the tax implications. Also, we are not 100% commercially acceptable (we'd need stainless cabinets, which we don't have today). Do we run a risk that an inspector would force us to replace cabinets?

Joyce will investigate further and report back.

- Future direction of church, thinking outside the box—Lloyd Menke

Lloyd would encourage us to remain open to all possibilities as we move ahead. Things have changed since Covid and how do we approach things moving forward - don't be afraid to let things change. What we see now is likely what we're going to see going forward. At this point, the request is that we remain open. Heidi — do we want to formalize this somehow? Lloyd - go back to a practice from before Covid by **beginning each council meeting with a visioning process**, focused on a new opportunity or structural change to drive the conversation which should lead to concrete goals - should we be looking at the larger high-end ministry view as its own goal with more concrete goals to either follow or be alongside.

For July: **ask people we know what engages them with their church**. In future, we should talk to people that don't engage with a church. Also, are there things at OSEL which hold our current congregation back from inviting or engaging?

- Insurance Benefits—Joyce Nelson

Colonial Insurance contacted Joyce, they'd like to meet with employees. Currently employees receive a stipend to cover

their costs to obtain coverage privately. Council doesn't wish to pursue.

- Marcus Theater request - Joel Rova-Hegener

Someone is removing the seats from the theater, and is requesting a place to store 11 theater seats until mid-August at which time he's going to ship them to Sierra Leone to a church he's starting. We could put them into a classroom which isn't being used during the summer.

Heidi moves that we approve, Tricia seconds. Motion carries

- There is a small amount of money left in Diane Pearson's continuing ed account; Joyce would like direction as to where that goes. When Doug Duin retired, his balance went to a miscellaneous designated account.

Ellen moves that it go to the miscellaneous designated account; Lori seconds. Motion carries

Informational updates:

- New Choir Director—Joel Rova-Hegener. New director David Kassler starts in September.
- Organist—Joel Rova-Hegener. Received an application today, although she may not wish to do full time. There is another individual interested in also part time. Task force is reviewing options. This may be a good solution, more to follow
- Solar Garden—Joyce Nelson. Joyce has investigated some other options besides Join Solar, one wanted a contract before they'd even talk with us and the other did not respond.

John moves that we proceed with JoinSolar. Lori seconds. Motion carries

- St. Phillips Partnership—Lloyd Menke

Lloyd and Amy met with Greg Geier earlier in the year regarding partnership possibilities which didn't go anywhere. He and Lori will talk with him further about options

- Small Groups—Lori Mikel

Lori is starting a group of empty nesters, and has been talking to people with different aged kids. If anyone has ideas for small groups please bring them to Lori.

- Rivertown Days—Heidi Lund

We have an opportunity to staff the information booth from 10-2 on July 22. The sense of the council is to let this go.

- Staff Reports

- CYF Update—Amy Hanson
- Parish Nurse Update—Sherri Lohmann
- Pastor's Reports—Pastor Lloyd/Pastor Joel

Prayers and Celebrations

Adjourn

John moved adjournment, Heidi seconded. Motion carries. Adjourned at 8:21

Next meeting will be July 25 rather than July 18; President's Committee will stay on July 11

Respectfully submitted, John Erickson, Secretary