

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Council Minutes
Dec. 19, 2023

Call to Order 6:32 PM

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

People absent: Tricia Agen

Devotions: Pastor Lloyd

Congregation Update: N/A

Consent motion:

Nov. 21, 2023 Council Minutes

Rod moves acceptance, Steve seconds. Motion carries.

Treasurer's Report: Ashley Dellwo

Year over year growth in giving of 4.5%; and 3.0% in attendance; overall trending in the right direction. We did receive a significant memorial to be used over multiple years to send first time attendees to camp or mission trips. If trends hold for December, we will finish the year about \$9,600 in the black.

John moves acceptance, Amy seconds. Motion carries.

Business:

- Vision/Future direction of church continuing conversation—Pastor Lloyd
 - Congregational Vitality Synod program - this is still available but the sense of the Council is that now isn't the time for us to participate again.
 - Small Groups — Are we assigning staff to support the programs which are attracting members? Looking to 2024 budget, history tells us at this congregation we may get commitments for about \$50k of the needed \$100k for the new staff position. As a result there are most likely some staffing cutbacks required. (One full time program staff position or moving a couple to half time). Council struggling a bit with not having the detailed knowledge and interactions within staff and what ripple effects change would have. Lengthy discussion. Request made that supervisors (Lloyd, Joyce, Joel) have recommendations assembled and review at a special president's committee meeting on January 9, 7:00 AM. Further discussion at Council meeting on January 16.
- 2024 Budget—Joyce Nelson

Joyce reviewed a proposed budget to bring to the congregation during the annual meeting
Ellen moved approval, Heidi seconded. Motion carries

Request by staff to move up dates - Special appeal presentation on January 7 and budget review on January 14.

- 2024 Council—Lori Mikel

Ellen's 6 year term is up and she'll be moving on. Heidi is willing to come back, and Lori has not completely made up her mind. Please send suggestions to Lloyd to pass on to the nominating committee.

Informational updates:

- Staff Reports
 - CYF Update—Amy Hanson

- Outreach Update/Community Involvement—Theresa Chatelle
- Parish Nurse Update—Sherri Lohmann
- Building Update—Jeff Conklin
- Pastor's Reports—Pastor Lloyd/Pastor Joel

John can't attend in January (either regular council meeting or annual meeting), Rod will take notes at these meetings.

Prayers and Celebrations

John Moves Adjournment, Rod seconds. Motion carries.

Adjourned at 8:11

Respectfully submitted, John Erickson, Secretary.

Addendum January 4, 2024.

Martha Grosenick would like to donate as a memorial to her late husband, lettering at the back of the Worship Center below the stained glass window above the middle doors, the words "Go in Peace, Serve the Lord!" The lettering will match the words in the Narthex above the Fellowship Hall doors.

Council took this matter up via email.

John moved that we accept the donation and approve installation as described above. Rod seconded. Motion carries.

Joyce Nelson

From: Amy Hanson
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 9:13 AM
To: Joyce Nelson; Lloyd Menke
Subject: CYF Council Report - December

Thank you, OSEL Council Members and Leaders, for your generous gift of the apparel, travel cup, and gift card during the Christmas. I appreciate your support and wish you all a wonderful new year!

A few notables for the month of December:

JAM Christmas Program – Just under 70 youth ages 3 years to 6th grade participated this year in the annual Christmas Program. Students narrated a version of the Christmas story that focused on the story of Jesus, and included songs and acting.

HS Youth Group Christmas Party – We hosted 14 High School youth at OSEL with games, a gingerbread house making contest, and pizza to celebrate the season together.

Donuts & Devos – We had a record number – 31 – High School youth attend December’s D&D at Froth. We spoke about the true meaning of Christmas and how to apply that past the celebration itself. We plan to continue this ministry throughout 2024.

JAM & God+Life – Students created Christmas cards and notes in the month of December that were distributed to area retirement and assisted-living communities.

Spring Planning – CYF is now in the midst of Spring planning which includes 3rd grade Bibles, First Communion Workshop, First Communion Services, youth fundraisers, Camp Wapo Registration, Mission Trip planning, Lenten Meal fundraisers, Refresh Services, etc.

Amy J. Hanson

Director of Children, Youth, and Family Programming

Our Saviour’s – Hastings

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Living as the hands, feet, and heart of Christ.

Community Outreach updates

January 2024

Manage/oversee various areas for the following events/programs

- Treehouse after school program for middle/high school
- organize packing events-Food 4 Kids weekend meals for Dist. 200
- Manage our Facebook page

Working with various organizations and their needs

- Hastings Family Service/Food rescue-Once a week
- Hastings school district

Planning in the works for the following

SPARK summer program

Working with the Devin Norring Foundation on a viewing of the documentary Come Back Home. It's a look into the lives of younger people who survived the loss of their loved ones to fentanyl.

Ongoing

- UWH board meeting
- Host teams
- Communion
- Greeters
- Helping kids Succeed meetings
- Narthex TV updates

Associate Pastor's Report

December 2023 (For the January 2024 council meeting)

December was a month filled with ministry, activity and worship services!

Congregational Activities:

- Preaching: 2 Sunday sermons + 1 Refresh + 1 Christmas Day.
- Liturgy: 2 Sunday in-person worship services, + 5 Christmas Eve services.
- 1 community service at Regina nursing home.
- Adult Bible studies.
- God + Life small group leader.
- H.S. Youth group Christmas event.
- In-person + phone pastoral visitation calls.
- Meetings: President's, Staff, Worship Planning, Pastors, Staff Check-in, et al.
- Staff supervision: Theresa Chatelle and musicians.
- Video recording scheduling and on-line worship planning.
- Recording: sermons, prayers, welcome, etc. weekly.
- Pastoral activities (phone calls, conversations, etc.)

Community Activities:

- Hastings Family Services Board meeting.
- Hastings Ministerial Association meeting

I was sick with Covid the last week of 2023.

-Pastor Joel

OSEL Church Council Parish Nurse Update (12.19.23-01.15.24) Sherri Lohmann RN

Member interactions:

- **Phone** – at least 10
- **Home or facility visits** – 8 visits with members at their homes or facilities. Brought large print devotionals, lovely lap quilts made by the quilters, and poinsettias, as well as Communion. All were very appreciated by the members.
- **In-person interactions** – continue to help people who bring concerns to me at church services, and to check in with folks who may be having challenges in grief.
- **Mailings** –
 - **Large print sermon mailings** – Now sending sermons to 10 members
 - **Large print Devotionals**- every 3 months I bring these to members
 - **Scriptural support for grief or health recovery**- Prepared additional grief support cards prior to Christmas for several members who experienced loss after the 33 mailings went out in my last report.
 - **Resources**-none sent out in mail this period.
- **Prayer Chain** – only 1 request during this period. Linda processed it for me as I was heading to CA to help with my uncle's memorial service.
- **Spotlight** – While on a visit with a member I learned the member had concerns about Covid and did not understand how to use the self-test kits the member received from past medical personnel. I looked at the kits, not usual ones we see in stores, and noted they were well beyond expiration, and had difficult directions to read. This member has vision challenges. I purchased a common test kit, and created large print typed, basic directions step-by-step that matched the kit directions. I made a copy of the diagrams, and positioned them on separate pages, matching step numbers, for greater ease in following. I brought these items to the member a few days later, along with an expired kit I had to use for demo and practice. This practice helped the member understand how to do the test by looking at the easier directions and practicing the steps. It was very much appreciated by the member, who reimbursed me for the purchase.

Community interactions: Received a phone call from an older gentleman close to Hastings, a former neighbor, who recently contacted me after my mom's death. Knowing I was a Parish Nurse, he asked for my help to answer his questions about care centers as his wife is now needing that level of care. He had a place in mind, didn't know contact information, doesn't use a computer. I was able to answer his questions and give him the name and phone number of a staff person who could guide him through this life change.

Completed or in progress: In progress, preparation for February CONNECT teaching.