

## Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Council Minutes

Dec. 16, 2025

### Attendance:

John Erickson, Chair- Present

Steve Gomez, Vice Chair- Present

Ashley Dellwo, Treasure -Present

Nikki Reinardy, Secretary- Present

Lori Mikel- Present

Heidi Lund- Present

Aaron Bushberger- Present

Sherry Fox- present at 7:00 pm

Cary Nygaard- Present

Pastor Joel- Present

Pastor Karen- Present

Joyce Nelson, Administrator- Present

### Call to Order at 6:28 PM

### Consent motion:

Nov. 18, 2025 Council Minutes

Motion to approve the November Council Minutes by Nikki

Seconded by Cary

Vote: 8-0-0

Motion Carries

### Treasurer's Report: Ashley Dellwo

Discussion

Motion to accept the treasurer's report by Heidi

Seconded by Lori

Vote: 8-0-0

Motion Carries

### Business:

- New Members—Pastor Karen

No new members to accept tonight.

- **Approve 2026 Budget to Present to Congregation**—Joyce Nelson

Motion to approve the 2026 Budget to Present to the Congregation at the Jan 25, 2026, annual meeting by Aaron.

Seconded by Heidi

Discussion

Vote: 8-0-0

Motion Carries

- **Approve Annual Meeting Agenda**—Joyce Nelson

Discussion

Motion to approve the 2026 Annual Meeting Agenda by Cary

Seconded by Nikki

Vote: 9-0-0

Motion Carries

- **Nominating Committee**—Pastor Karen

Discussion

- **Approve Pastors' 2026 Housing Allowances**—Joyce Nelson

Motion to approve pastors' housing allowances at \$30,000 each.

Seconded by Heidi

Discussion Sherry

Vote: 9-0-0

Motion Carries

- **Director of Contemporary Music/Organist Job Description**—Joel Rova-Hegener

Discussion

Motion to approve the Director of Contemporary Music/Organist Job Description by Nikki

Seconded by Heidi

Vote: 9-0-0

Motion Carries

- **Interim Senior Pastor Annual Performance Review**—John Erickson

Discussion

The intention is to complete in January 2026.

- **February Council Workshop**—John Erickson

Discussion

- **Request for Music Equipment**—Joel Rova-Hegener

Discussion

Motion to approve the Request \$2834.91 from Sweetwater Music Equipment to be paid from the miscellaneous designated account by Sherry.

Seconded by Heidi

Vote: 9-0-0

Motion Carries

#### **Informational updates:**

- Transition Team Update—Pastor Karen
- Staff Visioning—Pastor Karen

- Safety Committee Update—Sherri Fox
  
- Staff Reports
  - CYF Update—Amy Hanson
  - Parish Nurse Update—Sherri Lohmann
  - Building Update—Jeff Conklin
  - Pastor’s Reports—Pastor Joel

## **Prayers and Celebrations**

### **Adjourn at 7:54**

Motion to adjourn by Ashley

Seconded by Sherry

Vote: 9-0-0

Motion Carries

## Joyce Nelson

---

**From:** Amy Hanson  
**Sent:** Monday, December 29, 2025 4:13 PM  
**To:** Joyce Nelson  
**Subject:** December CYF Council Report

**God+Life Service Project** – The 9<sup>th</sup> graders in God+Life assembled the donations from our congregation to create 50 Holiday gift bags for the Hastings Senior Center. These gift bags will be given to seniors in the Hastings community during the Senior Center’s Holiday parties throughout December.

**HS Youth Group Christmas Party** – 13 High School students attended the Holiday party where they decorated cookies, playing games, and enjoyed treats to kick off the Holiday season.

**7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Youth Night** – We hosted 23 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders for an evening of games and treats honoring Christmas.

**JAM Christmas Program** – Over 50 JAM students ages 3 years to 6<sup>th</sup> grade participated in this year’s annual Christmas program on Sunday, Dec. 14.

**Refresh Christmas Worship** – New this year, our last Refresh Worship before the Holiday break was a Christmas Worship with youth reading scripture and singing Christmas songs with the band.

**Women’s Book Club** – The Women’s Book Club met early December to discuss “Every Day the Way Home Gets Longer” by Frederik Backman. 16 women attended the discussion.

**Early Risers** – This Bible Study group met twice in December and focused on the season of Advent and the birth of Jesus.

*Amy J. Hanson*

Director of Children, Youth, and Family Programming

Our Saviour’s – Hastings

400 West 9<sup>th</sup> St.

Hastings, MN 55033

651.437.9052

[www.osel.org](http://www.osel.org)

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

## **OSEL Church Council Parish Nurse Update (11.18.25 – 1.12.26) Sherri Lohmann RN**

Note- this 2-month accounting includes 2 weeks of vacation time. During my vacation time I created Grief Support for the pre-Christmas mailings, visited and sang for a member who was dying, answered incoming calls and sent prayer requests. I did not make many outreach calls, attend staff meetings, or Wednesday evening services during the 2 weeks.

### **Member Interactions:**

- **Phone** –115+ calls (includes incoming and outgoing, plus contact through email)
- **Home or facility visits** – 17
- **In-person interactions** – so many- especially with the extra services for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day!
- **Printed support or ministry** - mailings or given to members –
  - Large print sermon mailings (plus note) – send weekly to 12 members
  - Large print (or regular) Devotionals –delivered to 6 members
  - Scriptural support for health recovery or grief – 8 for grief and 9 for health
  - Resources (such as help at home, counseling)- provided resources to 3
- **Prayer Chain** – 13 prayer requests sent out.
- **Spotlight** –
  - I provided physical assistance for a member's significant other, to get him out of home, into car, and into clinic, and then back into home again, for several appointments before a home care agency could begin services for this man. This included an unexpected blood clot in the lung, which necessitated ER and hospitalization.

### **Community Interactions:**

- I continue to play piano and sing for Benedictine Regina Ecumenical services every Monday morning, and once a month at Oak Ridge Manor for our OSEL pastors as they lead worship. I love encouraging the residents who attend services and can interact with our members who attend services at each place.
- Attended the memorial service for Pastor Jim Bzoskie. I created grief support cards for his wife and children and for his brother-in-law and sister-in-law, who are OSEL members. He lived a life of care and service to others, meeting them where they were, as Jesus did. His loss will be greatly felt in many fibers of our community.

### **Completed or in progress:**

- Completed - Each year I make Scriptural Verse cards for Grief Support mailings for people facing their first Christmas after the death of a loved one. I send support to OSEL family members, people I know in our community, and family members with loss. I also include a letter about navigating grief and a CareNotes booklet guide for Christmas for the bereaved. This year I sent 38 mailings to OSEL members, and an additional 10 (with my own postage) to community and family members.
- I was happy to learn from Global Health Ministry that Veterans Donor Connect will take electric wheelchairs, scooters, lift chairs, and hospital beds - items people are not able to sell or donate. They repair equipment if needed and give items to veterans, their families, and other Americans in need. They were able to help 2 of our members with equipment donations and are a source for future donations.
- In-Progress – Still working through changes with Caring Visit Ministry-members moving, and other changes. Still have some good bonds formed.

## Associate Pastor's Report

December 2025 (For the January 2026 council meeting)

December was full of ministry, as well as preparation and planning for more ministry. Throw in five Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services, plus a wedding, and it was busy. On top of all of that, my father, John Rova, died on Saturday, December 27<sup>th</sup>. So, it has been a lot.

### Congregational Activities:

- Preaching: 1 Sunday sermon, 1 Refresh message and Christmas Day.
- Memorial Service planning mtg.
- Safety & Security Team, walk through with consultant.
- Creation of Sunday Worship services.
- Adult Bible studies.
- In-person + phone pastoral visitation calls.
- Meetings: Council, President's, Staff, Worship Planning, Pastors, et al.
- Staff supervision: musicians.
- Recording: sermons, prayers, welcome, etc. weekly.
- Pastoral activities (phone calls, conversations, etc.)

### Synod:

- Iringa Cmte. Mtg. – missed due to father's decline.

### Community:

- HFS board meeting (Final meeting. Term is done.)
- Hastings Ministerial Association meeting.

-Pastor Joel