

**OUR SAVIOURS LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
April 11, 2011**

PRESENT: Pastor Maurice Schaus, Shannon Cortright, Shirley Mitchell, Rebecca Burgener, Patti Lutzke, Anne Torkelson, Carie Truckey, Tina Kiefer,

EXCUSED: Dan Szulczewski, Russ Leyk, Charlotte Peters, Roger Anderson, and Cindy Wilson

Meeting called to order by Shirley Mitchell. On behalf of the Council and Our Saviour's Congregation, Shirley welcomed Pastor Maurice, our pastor.

Devotions were read by Pastor Maurice.

The Secretary's report was reviewed and motion was made by Rebecca to accept the report as printed. Motion was seconded by Shannon, and the motion passed.

The financial report was reviewed. Carie reported that Benevolence is short of our goal by \$836. No specific action will be taken in response to the shortage at this time. She confirmed that the Ziegler account funds (approximately \$50,000 dedicated funds) are in the process of being moved to an account called The American Fund. It will be managed by Dave Purnal. This is the same fund that other local congregations are invested in; historic return on the Fund is about 4%. It is a stable account. The Fairstand board is in the process of being contacted to initiate activity for the 2011 fair. Per the last Council meeting, The Financial Stewardship drafted a recommended Dedicated Fund – Gain/Loss Investment Policy. This was presented, but due to the absence of a significant number of members of the Council, it was decided to wait until the May meeting for further action by Council on the Policy.

Rebecca moved to accept the Financial Report. Patti seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Team Reports:

Christian Education

Holy Walk will be present this year. VBS will be a joint venture with St Stephens's with the activities to take place at St Stephen's.

Outreach

No new activity. Meeting is scheduled for April 14th. A draft of the new members' presentation has been made and will be discussed at the April meeting. A brochure will also likely be utilized.

Property & Maintenance

Pastor Maurice wanted to compliment the Property & Maintenance Team, along with all the volunteers for the hard work that took place in a very short time to make the necessary updates and cleaning in the parsonage. You did a wonderful job. A brochure has been completed for the new members' presentation. Yet to decide if a power point will be completed.

Stewardship

No particular Council action is required.

Worship & Music

An installation date of Pastor Maurice has not yet been determined. We are to present several optional dates to the Bishop and the Bishop will then advise what will work for his schedule.

Youth & Family

No council action needed. The Youth were instrumental in the efforts they provided to ensure the final Fish Fry event could still take place this week. Thank you!!! Also, the actions taken in response to those affected by the tornado was outstanding. They participated in tree and debris removal as well as providing clothes for affected victims from the previous clothes drive that was conducted. An observation from our Pastor is that "Our Youth are great...they are active, helpful and eager to be responsible for their own destiny".

Ann moved to accept the Team reports as printed. Rebecca seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Pastor's Report

In the absence of a formal report, Pastor presented the following:

Pastor discussed the need for Council (or rather the Executive Committee) to provide approval for the completion of a tax provision form to allow a portion of the base salary to be viewed as a tax benefit for a home owner. Ann indicated that the Executive Committee has approved this; Pastor will work with the Executive Comm to get the document finalized.

Pastor has suggested providing direct deposit for staff salary positions. The associated costs are \$5 per month and & \$.75 per transaction. Participation is optional. Shannon made a motion to move forward with direct deposit for salaried employees to be implemented by June 1st. The motion was seconded by Patti. Motion passed. Rebecca and Pastor Maurice abstained.

Pastor Maurice discussed his philosophy on communing. He recommends that when children start asking questions about communing, that they be allowed to participate in the educational process and be offered the opportunity to participate in communion.

Business

Due to the attendance and participation growth of both FROGS & FOCUS groups, the Youth have outgrown the existing Youth Room. Jamie asked for options to be discussed to solve the space constraints. Jamie thought it important to address this concern prior to painting the walls as approved last month. One recommendation was to swap rooms with the 1st grade Sunday school class. It was also recommended to move the tape recording area and equipment to the former Assoc Pastor's office.

Carie made a motion to relocate the Youth Room in place of the 1st grade Sunday school classroom after completion of the 2010-2011 Sunday School year. Rebecca seconded the motion. Motion passed.

For the purpose of benefits package, Pastor Maurice start date shall be considered April 1st, 2011.

Discussions were had about moving expenses and the parsonage repairs. It was recommended that those expenses shall be paid for out of the Designated Fund "Undesignated" Account # 067-01-15-02 (Scrip Funds). All repair expenses incurred to date should be paid. Expenses related the Pastor's 1st phase partial move (limited amount moved by personal vehicles), will be tracked by the Pastor. Those expenses, along with the final full move shall be submitted by Pastor as a single event and expenses paid.

A motion was made to pay for the parsonage repairs from Designated Fund "Undesignated" Account # 067-01-15-02 (Scrip Funds) by Rebecca. The motion was seconded by Carie. Motion passed.

Pastor Maurice will work with the Executive Committee to formalize a parsonage rental agreement document. It is beneficial to pay a housing allowance to Pastor Maurice and then submit rental payment on the parsonage.

The Council reviewed the Employee Review Process Policy & Procedure as drafted. Shannon made a motion to approve the policy and procedure as written. The motion was seconded by Patti. Motion passed. Rebecca and Pastor Maurice abstained.

A Power Point and other Media Projector was purchased per the Council action last month. Rebecca will review the sale and verify that a maintenance program was purchased. If not, a program will be purchased for the unit. A cart still needs to be purchased and this will be purchased from the remaining authorized amount approved.

Technology Purchases:

Cell phones – the initial recommendation from Carie is to continue monthly reimbursement for existing services to Pastor Maurice and Jamie. There are limitations to service and applications available at Jamie's home when using other cell phone service providers other than the current provider she has. That particular provider is not available locally.

Pastor Maurice recommended moving to a permanent, local, solution for the Pastor Only (the cell phone would be OSLC property) - Carie and Pastor Maurice will work together to select a cell phone service provider. Pastor recommends trialing various providers (if that option is available for 30 day periods) and then making a final decision.

Laptop – discussion took place around the availability of a laptop to the Pastor. Currently, there is only a desk top computer available. Should a laptop be purchased for use by the Pastor, the desktop could be used for future expansion of the technology to support projected bulletins, music, etc for worship services.

Carie made a motion to authorize a laptop be purchased by OSLC for use by the Pastor. One thousand dollars shall be allocated for the purchase from the SOS Technology/Undesignated Funds account. The motion was seconded by Shannon. Motion passed. Pastor Maurice abstained.

Strategic Plan – Short Term & Long Term for Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

Pastor would like to see an event scheduled to gather input from the Congregation on:

Who Are We

Where Are We Going

How Are We Going to Get There

This event will have opportunities for members to provide responses to these questions on large poster boards. Members would rotate amongst the Board, have the opportunity to review other member responses and add their own. This information would then be used by the Council to assist at a Council Retreat where this information would be analyzed, crunched and then put

together in a manner so that at the Annual Meeting, all attending members could vote on short-term and long-term goals and methods of meeting the goals to answer the three questions. Active participation by members is eagerly recommended.

Activities to immediately respond to community needs related to tornado disaster:
Put out the fishbowl asking for contributions to the Deacon's Fund. Announce the availability of funds to be disbursed through the Deacon's Fund to help meet needs. This will be advertised in the weekly word and the network.

Council needs to work on a presentation to support the new members program. Tina and Pastor John did not get to meet prior to his departure to work on this. Looking for someone to assist in the development of the presentation.

Rebecca moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Anne, motion passed.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted:

Tina Kiefer
Council Member