

Our Savior Lutheran Church Board of Elders Meeting

8:00 am Saturday, March 10, 2018

Members in attendance: Pastor Rick Jones, Vicar Matt, Nick Dreyer, Jim Potts, Ryan Schaan, Steve Carbno, Lynn Nord, Wayne Johnson, Eric Poppinga

Pastor Rick opened the meeting with prayer.

The group opened with discussion in regards to Member Call Night, the successes and how we address our true number of members. Discussion ensued, brought by Ryan Schaan in regards to how best approach getting an accurate number of Church membership and if the subject comes up, how we transfer people from one congregation to another. Ryan Schaan brought up about how to approach the conversation and how it should be handled. Vicar Matt and Pastor Rick gave us examples of what to say such as being rather direct when some tell us things such as "I haven't been attending OSLC and have been attending (xxx), we should be direct and kind and respond with a question such as...."do you want to keep your membership here?" or "do you need to transfer your membership?" All of these conversations are obviously happening after we make an attempt to reach out kindly to them and retain them at OSLC. Some situations and movements cannot be prevented, to include, people simply moving out of the area.

There was discussion in regards to getting volunteers together to serve as ushers during the services with an emphasis on the 9:30 and 11:00 services. We need to develop a system where people are able to sign up for specific days and specific times and monitor it. Steve Carbno stated that he has been handling it however he is ready to have some help and a system to get people involved in an organized way. Nick Dreyer asked Eric Poppinga to make a spreadsheet for the usher organization month by month.

We moved onto the topic of Mercy Care, the current situation and how best to administer the program moving forward. Steve Carbno and Nick Dreyer submitted a guideline and policy for how the whole program could and should work. Steve made a very clear and good point that we cannot use the program specifically for need but rather and also a ministry opportunity and to help their financial AND spiritual situation. Enabling vs. Empowering. Anonymity of the individual(s) is a key item and is very much necessary. Follow up after the initial money being offered, approx. 14 days, is a must not only to check up on the person(s) but also to be assured that their spiritual needs are being met. Jim Potts brought up that we should include that they have an opportunity to pay back or pay forward if they see fit after they've had an opportunity to get back on their feet. We discussed how there will be situations where we will have to say no, that we can't help or possibly simply that the help should come from a source within the City or County that already exists. Steve Carbno brought up the point that we should never be buying groceries since there are multiple food banks within the area for that specific need. Ryan Schaan asked if there was a resource sheet that would show who and where these particular resources are located. Steve handed out a sheet referring to these sources and their area of

specialty. Vicar Matt brought up a great point of how do we track the assessment of the situation and giving ie: when do we say yes or no and how do we take into account who keeps coming back and etc. Steve said we need to work on a tracking system and was going to contact a resource within his place of employment to see what form they use for tracking such things. We also discussed fundraising for those who have situations that could use temporary help for a health emergency or something similar. Wayne Johnson brought up the fact that we could help certain families with soup and bread-type fundraising. It was brought up that we should be careful to not do too many of these fundraising type events since that may have the propensity to burn people out on fundraisers and that it could have a negative effect. It was brought up that many of these fundraising type events could be organized and put on by those connected to the particular person or family and that it didn't necessarily always need to take place at the Church. We have to be careful how this is assessed and don't want to be seen as helping one situation or family and not the other. We want to help everyone we can but have to do it in an organized and well-founded fashion.

Nick Dreyer and Steve Carbno provided an update on the trailer situation, how best to assess the current situation and what is the best to do moving forward. Nick stated the utilities and lot rent were paid through April, however the electricity and possibly other utilities were going to be discontinued very soon, for which we have no control since those are not in the name of anyone at the Church. We discussed that the best possible thing would be to just get rid of it before it costs any more especially since the condition of the structure is poor. Various ideas were discussed to include contacting the trailer park owner to see if they are interested in taking possession of the structure. We will continue to monitor the situation and await an update in April.

Jim Potts brought forward a meeting that was to take place at the Shepherd's Hill at the Crossroads which is a "Congregational Safety Seminar" on April 14th. We discussed the need for a safety team, concealed carry items, health safety, AED locations, and other items that relate to the safety of the congregation. A few members to include Steve Carbno, Lynn Nord and Jim Potts expressed interest in attending this seminar and asked others to consider attending. This will help us at OSLC move ahead with a more refined and clear safety plan to help in emergency or crisis situations involving health issues or certain safety challenges.

We temporarily adjourned to pray over the mission team who was leaving that morning for Mexico which was a very nice moment lead by Pastor Rick and Vicar Matt.

A few members to include Steve Carbno and Wayne Johnson had to leave for work and other activities since our meeting was running much longer than the hour allotted. Ryan Schaan left with the mission team.

We further discussed the safety issue and meeting. Jim Potts stated he would get more information about the seminar and forward to everyone for their review and consideration.

We discussed the closely approaching need for someone to take the lead on some of the things that Vicar Matt is doing since he is down to a handful of Sundays left. We need to look closely at a few things to include the 9:30 Sunday morning Bible Study class.

The pastoral call committee and the prior meeting was brought up for discussion by Jim Potts. Pastor Rick and Nick Dreyer addressed some of the items that came out of that meeting, both the positive and the negative. It was noted that calm heads and hearts must prevail and we must put the best construction on everything by making the mission of Jesus number one and to build up our Church and our members instead of getting bogged down in accusations or personal preferences of how things should be presented. The Board of Elders will need to be involved as much as Pastor Rick, Vicar Matt and Nick Dreyer see as appropriate.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:18am.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Poppinga