

Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
Congregational Council Minutes  
May 11th, 2021

**Present:** Pastor Liz, Ginger McCabe, Ginny Grabow, Ben Olsen, Deb Gehrke, Kay Wendelschafer

**Absent:** Sharyn Gregor, Brian Block, Kevin Hewitt

**Congregation Member:** Don McCabe

**Secretary's Report:** April council meeting minutes reviewed and approved.

**Financial Report:** Approved by council.

- The general fund received gifts of \$8,243.75 in May, versus last year of \$9,538.22, giving us a difference of (\$1,294.47).
- Year to Date: The general fund received gifts of \$48,837.70 versus last year of \$43,837.70, giving us a difference of \$1,818.73.

**Old Business:**

- The Council will continue to review mask policies as recommendations from the Council for Disease Control (CDC) continue to change.
- Thank you to 7 congregation members who helped with spring yard clean-up at the parsonage and church on April 20th and filled a trailer with debris and compost! We are in need of some lower growing shrubs on the West side of the building because the arborvitae is starting to block the church sign. The council approved \$200 for new landscaping.

**New Business:**

- Pastor Liz told the Council that the city of Cleveland sent a letter notifying residents about high levels of manganese present in city water. Don McCabe, who is Mayor of Cleveland, informed the Council that the city is working on a plan to treat the water but it takes time to get approved by the Department of Health. Manganese cannot be absorbed through the skin by hand-washing or showering. If large amounts are ingested by humans it can cause gastrointestinal issues and it should not be given to small pets to drink. Water softeners take manganese out of water so drinking water at the parsonage should not be an issue. Since the church does not have a water softener, Don recommended purchasing a filter that attaches to the faucet in the kitchen sink for drinking water there. The drinking fountains at the church have not been in use since the pandemic started but we should change the filters when we decide to use them again.
- The dandelions are rampant in the church lawn. We have an account with Spring Touch for the church but not the parsonage. Someone needs to ask them when they will spray.
- The Council approved \$1200.00 to help with registration fees for 6 church youth to attend camp this summer. Ginger will ask Brian to mail a check to Green Lake Lutheran Ministries.
- Scott Lassiter asked Ginger if there are any new volunteers to help with streaming church services on Sundays. Since no one has volunteered, it would be good to make an outline of the technology steps to

take and post it at the table in the back so anyone can help in a pinch. Ginger will connect with Scott about creating something. We should also consider using Sign-up Genius to schedule technology helpers one month in advance.

- We will plan for a longer Council meeting in June, which will include two new appointed members, to discuss plans and goals for our congregation moving forward.

Next meeting will be IN PERSON on Sunday, June 13th, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm.

Minutes prepared by: Ginger McCabe

Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
Special Congregational Council Meeting  
May 19th, 2021

**Present:** Pastor Liz, Ginger McCabe, Ginny Grabow, Deb Gehrke, Kay Wendelschafer

**Absent:** Sharyn Gregor, Ben Olsen, Brian Block, Kevin Hewitt

**New Business:**

- On May 13th the CDC announced new guidelines stating that fully vaccinated adults no longer need to wear a mask or physically distance in any setting, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance. On May 14th Minnesota's governor, Tim Walz, followed suit by stating the same guidelines for the MN Stay Safe Plan. Although, it is recommended that unvaccinated people still wear masks.
- In the May Newsletter sent out on May 14th, Pastor Liz stated that Our Savior's will continue to require mask wearing and social distancing at in-person worship services through Memorial Day Weekend, giving the Church Council time to discuss and plan for our new "normal." In the last week many businesses have dropped their mask wearing policies and many are asking questions about what the policy at church will be. Therefore, Pastor Liz asked the Church Council for a special meeting to help her navigate the rapid changes happening in our world around the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Council discussed many questions at length, including: What will the new guidelines mean for Our Savior's Lutheran Church? What will the expectations be for *this coming* Sunday's worship service and confirmation service? Will congregation members feel safe attending worship services in person with or without masks? Will people who continue to wear masks feel embarrassed? What will this mean for congregational singing? What will this mean for Our Savior's youth who are not old enough to be vaccinated yet? How can we possibly please everyone?
- Some Council members have heard from congregation members who no longer feel it is necessary to wear a mask because they are fully vaccinated and it is no longer recommended by the CDC. Some congregation members will not come back to in-person worship until mask wearing is no longer required. Others feel there is not enough information about the virus or the vaccinations to be completely safe yet.
- The Council and Pastor came to the conclusion that we should continue following CDC guidelines as we have been doing throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, which means that masks will no longer be

required for those who are fully vaccinated starting this Sunday, May 23rd. We will trust that those not wearing masks have been fully vaccinated, as it is not our job to police this. The confirmands will be asked to wear masks as the vaccination just became available to their age group, therefore, they are not fully vaccinated yet. Their families will be seated in groups distanced from each other. Those who want to take part in congregational singing will be asked to wear a mask when singing. We will continue to use the disposable communion cups until they are gone. We will continue to live stream our worship services for those who are unable or not ready to resume gathering in person. Pastor Liz will continue to wear a mask when not leading worship to show our inclusion to everyone, especially the children.

- Beginning May 28th, distancing requirements and group size limitations are eliminated.