

OSLC Council Retreat Minutes

August 11, 2026 9:00-3:30 at OSLC

The Mission of Our Saviour Lutheran Church is to serve God's community through **worship, outreach, and fellowship.**

Present: Facilitator: Pastor James Armentrout

Pastor Joel Antley, Chris Bell (Vice-president), Fred Burroughs, Carol Cox (Treasurer, non-voting), John Hess (President), Joanne Jackson, Paul McKeag, Fred Rencsok, Dave Rundgren, Brenda Ryan, Ciel Yalowitz-Correa

Absent: Karen Snape

Council Goals for 2026-2027:

1. Learn about people and their gifts to utilize those gifts in worship and community.
2. Through preparation and discernment, to conduct the business of the church effectively and efficiently.
3. Proclaim and celebrate our achievements and our story.

Agenda Items:

- ✦ **Introductions & Sharing**
- ✦ **Listening for God's Call**
 - ✦ **When you hear the name Our Saviour, what immediately comes to mind?**
Jesus Christ, peace, involvement with community, food ministry, community larger than Christiansburg, worship, relationships, family, new creation, faithfulness,
 - ✦ **What do you love most about this congregation?**
caring of the people, welcoming, outreach (PMO, social justice, interfaith), relationships, community service,
 - ✦ **Where have you seen God most clearly at work here during the past few years?**
Him guiding me here, embracing Pastor, sustained efforts to renewed fervor & commitment, upgrades in facilities, improvements in technology & communication, holy space of communion, TOH
 - ✦ **Five years from now, what do you hope people in the community will say about OSLC?**
community, dedicated to community service, reaching out to provide enjoyment to community,
- ✦ **Remembering Our Story** (see attachments)
 - Timeline moments discussed in small groups
 - High points
 - Challenges in groups – timeline
 - Strengths Wall
 - Picked our top 5
- ✦ **Discerning God's Call** (see attachments)
 - Small Group Conversations
 - Word Harvest
- ✦ **Giving Voice to Our Mission & Leading with Purpose** (see attachments)
 - Mission Statement Drafts
 - 3 Volunteers to write an explanation for members of the congregation
- ✦ **Discussed Rebranding and Possible Logos** (see attachments)
- ✦ **John Hess closed our meeting with prayer.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Carol Cox

Mission Statement Drafts – Summary

Loving God and serving the community

During our council retreat, we explored core questions regarding the purpose of Our Saviour Lutheran, the significance of Jesus as our savior, the needs of our surrounding community, and God's call for our ministry. From the wide array of thoughtful responses, several recurring words and themes emerged: God, Purpose, Serve/Service, Equip, Love, and Community. These elements led us to the overarching statement, "Loving God and Serving the Community," which captures the heart of our mission. We live out this mission by expressing our love for God in all aspects of life and actively serving both our congregation and the broader community.

Paul McKeag

Equipping God's people to express love and compassion to all

The mission, "equipping God's people", would mean giving every member of our congregation the faith, knowledge and opportunities they need to serve the community. Whether through worship, youth programs, community service, or simply supporting someone who's struggling. Every member has a role to play in the mission of the Church. Proclaiming that God's love knows no bounds creates a warm, welcoming space for all of God's people.

Ciel Yalowitz-Correa

Proclaiming God's Love here and now.

As children of God, we proclaim God's merciful love living in community united through worship, outreach, and fellowship. Through our Lutheran tradition we explore and celebrate partnership in the Creation knowing that we may love freely and boldly. Proclaiming God's merciful love illuminates the unique capacity of God to tenaciously hold everyone, no matter what. God hopes and expects that, as we share the gifts of the Spirit: love, peace, joy, patience, kindness, thankfulness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control, we proclaim God's merciful love.

John Hess

September 10, 2025



Details:

Per our by-laws and constitution, our church logo must include; a manger, a sun, and a cross.

The logo above allows us to have a wordmark and a stand-alone logo that calls to our history and yet invokes energy and boldness for our future.

The Sun:

The golden sun reminds us of the radiance and divinity of the Son and the promise of Christ's coming again to finish the work of defeating sin, death, and the devil and bringing about the new life found in the new creation. The sun also reminds us of the light of Christ that we each are bearers of in our lives of faith, affirming the call to discipleship we all carry, "16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

The Cross:

The cross reminds us of the sacrifice of Christ that bore the weight of the world's sin and that sets all people free. The cross being amongst the sun and inside the manger remind us of the mystery of faith, Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again. Pointing to the already

not yet of our faith that gives hope to all people. The color of the cross being black brings out its connection to the cross at the center of the Luther Rose.

The manger:

The nativity of Christ that shows the incarnational love of our God. Our God is not distant, but instead chose to be with us and to live among us. Christ put on perishability coming into this world as fragile child. A God that humbles oneself for the sake of the creation they love and points to the wonder of Christ's divinity; both fully human and fully God.

The colors:

The colors are bold. The red is that of Luther's Rose that conveys the Lutheran heritage and history of the Reformation but also that of Pentecost where we are given the Holy Spirit. The Gold reminds us of the Easter divinity of our Lord and of the constant presence of God's warmth and love that is radiated for and to all people. The black proclaims the fullness of our faith, that we are dust and to dust we shall return, but it is held firm in the promise of new life found in the rising Son.

PRIMARY



SECONDARY



BLACK AND WHITE PRINT



Outreach Mission Team Priorities

First Priority

Congregational Care / Grief Care
Encircle / Minnick
AV
Plastic Recycle
God's Work Our Hands
Food Ministry
Fall Festival
MCEAP
Bible Study
Bread Breakers
To Our House
Social Media / Online Presence
Fellowship
Worship
Council
Music

Second Priority

Comfort Clothes
Women's Resource Center
Change 4 Change
Red Cross Blood Drives
LT2
Celebrate Family – Children
Free Little Library
Celebrate Family – Eklesia

G.I.G.'s

Third Priority

Herb Garden
Preacher's 'Tiquers
Butterfly Garden
Community Music Festival
Lord's Acre Sale
Book Club
Advocacy – Faith Based
Nineveh
Agency on Aging
Caroling

Fourth Priority

ELCA Good Gifts
Columbarium / Memorial Garden
Crafters
From me to you
Property Teams
Refugee / Immigrant Support
PMO – expanded
Wrapping Booth
Dialogue on Race
The Big Event