

August 2023, Vol. 63, Issue 8



Special Voter's Meeting —
Mid-August — Read all about it on back page.....

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8/6 OSL I-CUBS OUTING
8/15 7P SPECIAL VOTER'S MEETING
(FINAL DATE TBD BY 8/6)



Getting ready for RAGBRAI Riders! Water, Water, Water! 2,177 bottles...see the Sept Chronicler



Reason no. 27 why every person needs a pastor:

(Note: I am not referring to me; merely the office. I am expendable. The office isn't.)

I was thinking about this the other day. It's very problematic when a person is extremely frustrated with another individual because the frustrated person feels a need to talk through their feelings and to seek counsel on the situation. But how do you express yourself when the 8th commandment instructs you to guard carefully the reputation of others? Even if your expressions of frustration are as generous as possible there is bound to be some collateral compromise to the other party's reputation because, obviously, you wouldn't be frustrated at all in the first place had that other party not done something that you, at least, view in a negative light. Do you see the conundrum?

People need someone to talk to. Keeping it all to yourself not only eats you up inside, it also deprives you of the assistance that a disinterested 3rd party can offer. I think that a lot of the time what happens is – you can't keep it to yourself, and so you throw the 8th commandment overboard. The result is – reputations are damaged.

The Pastoral office offers a solution to this conundrum. Due to the seal of confession (a pastor's sworn oath not to divulge anything entrusted to him), the pastor becomes a useful repository for your frustration without jeopardizing anyone's reputation. In other words, you can process your frustrations through your pastor without bashing anyone (the pastor can't tell and must forgive all).

What if the person you're frustrated with is the pastor? The same seal still holds. You can complain about him to him and he still won't tell. And so, your own reputation is guarded. The pastor can't tell anyone that you ripped into him, even if he feels that your criticisms were thoroughly unjust.

It is unfortunate that people too infrequently make use of this gift and instead consistently transgress against the 8th commandment.

The pastoral office is a sort of protected dumping ground. I have tried to keep this space sacred and will continue to do so in the hope that you will feel free to make use of the gift God gives to you with the pastoral office.

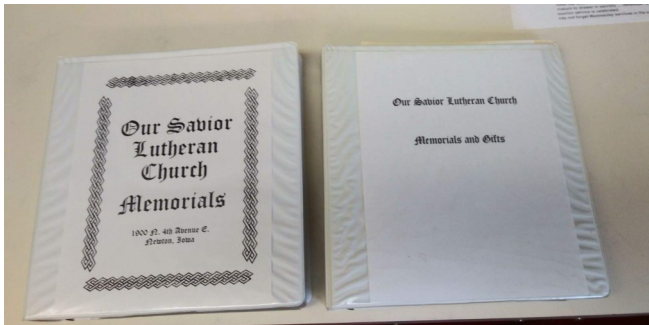
Pastor Picard



Celebrating OSL military personnel at OSL on July 2 with a slide presentation, photographs and information regarding their service to our country. We Salute you! Thank you!



Our Savior Lutheran Church Foundation of Newton, Iowa



That's the "official" name of the OSL Foundation whose report is given to the Voters at the regular Voters meetings. Why does this Foundation exist? When was it begun? Who is responsible for it?

The best way to answer the first question is to copy Article II of the ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION of the Foundation:

"The purpose for which this Foundation shall exist and function is to educate, encourage, solicit, and accept contributions, gifts, grants, funds, devises and bequests of personal or real property, or both, which shall be held, administered and expended exclusively, exercising proper Christian stewardship, to further the work of the Kingdom of God both at home and for the Church at large."

According to Foundation records, the Articles of Organization in its entirety was adopted by OSL Voters on July 21, 1983. By this time in the congregation's history (22 years after its beginning,) a need became apparent for a separate place for memorials and other contributions and records separate from the general church office functions. This writer does not know where the language for the Articles came from, but it is surmised that it was taken from similar documents of other LCMS churches. They are very thorough and have not been changed since their original adoption.

The Foundation's administrator(s) are directly responsible to the OSL Voters. The President, Church Council, or any other committee or board has no control of the Foundation. The first individuals put in charge of the Foundation by the Voters were Ed and Geneva Trost. They continued in this position until 2005 when Bob Bringolf [Foundation]



Special Voters Meeting to be Held in mid August

Special VOTERS' MEETING

By Doug DeJong and Rick Schiller

Especially for those that were unable to attend the July 18 Voter's meeting, it is important that all members know about a Special Voter's meeting planned for mid August. The purpose of this meeting is twofold. The **first purpose** is to decide as a congregation whether we prefer to a) request a seminary graduate to be appointed by the Placement Committee of the Synod, a committee made up of professors from both seminaries and three district presidents, which, at present does not include ID-E President Saunders, or b) call an experienced pastor from the field, either one currently pastoring another LCMS congregation or one that is in "candidate" status, meaning he does not have a current Call.

If the congregation selects a) to call a new seminary graduate, then that will constitute our call to a pastor and we would wait until April of 2024 to learn which new graduate is appointed to our call, provided there are enough graduates to fill our call. Otherwise, if the congregation selects b) to call a man from the field, then a Call Committee will be appointed, and President Saunders will provide a list of pastors for the Call Committee to review and decide which pastors to present to the voters for consideration and vote.

Further detail on these options will be presented at the meeting.

The **second purpose** is to hear and consider the options that the Hail Recovery Committee (HRC), chaired by Rick Schiller, has assembled to present to voters regarding possible window replacement at church. Since window replacement and roof repair involve some common structure, window replacement is being considered at this time so we can save money if it is completed at the same time as the roof repairs. In addition to Rick, the HRC is comprised of Bob Mesner, Carol Twedt, Michael Weddell, and Gail Hartz. The Board of Trustees has a standing invitation to HRC meetings and is included on email communications.

For anyone who is not informed, the church has filed a substantial claim with our insurance company due to damage sustained on May 7 during the hailstorm. While assessing the windows as part of that claim, significant wood rot and deterioration unrelated to the hailstorm was found on many of the windows. Given that the windows are between 45 and 62 years old, the voters authorized the HRC to study window replacement options and bring those options forward for review and decision at a future special voter's meeting. The insurance company has acknowledged our claim for roof damage and has already awarded significant funds to begin repairs. The HRC is also working with our roofing contractor to finalize a repair plan. That plan will also be shared with voters at the mid August meeting prior to any work authorization.

The exact date of the Special Voter's Meeting has not been determined, but it will likely be held early during the week of the Iowa State Fair, Aug 15-18. We need to give the HRC enough time to gather their information, but we also need to get work started so the project can be completed before snowfall or sub-freezing temperatures set in. We appreciate everyone's understanding and look forward to your inputs on both topics to be covered at this meeting. If you have inputs that you'd like to share prior to the meeting on the Call process, please direct them to Doug DeJong. If you have inputs on the window replacement and roof repair projects, please direct those to Rick Schiller.

The exact date of the meeting will be announced in the bulletins no later than August 6, which provides two Sundays advanced notice to voters. As such, the earliest date the meeting would be held is Aug. 15 and it will likely be during the early part of that week. Please plan to be there because everyone's inputs matter!

[Foundation, cont.] was approved by Voters to take over these duties, with Ed continuing to be an authorized signer on the checking accounts. After Ed's death, a new signer was needed on the accounts, and on July 19, 2022, Rick Hartz was approved in this position.

Memorial records and financial records of the Foundation are kept in the Sacristy (the room at the west end of Luther Hall) in the cupboard nearest the window on the west wall. There are two separate notebooks which are updated as needed. Please take the time to look at these notebooks as they affect many families of current and past members. The Memorials book is in alphabetical order by family name. If you have any questions concerning the OSL Foundation, please contact Bob Bringolf.