

September 2023, Vol. 63, Issue 9

Chronicler



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH , MISSOURI SYNOD
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Dear OSLeers:

First off ---

I attended your voters' assembly held on August 15th and was very impressed by the number of members in attendance. Probably a few of you were there to see if I would dress up or not, but my main takeaway was that there is, within your congregation, a strong sense of interest and feeling of responsibility for your church. I think that's wonderful.

At said occasion the voters elected to commence the call process, seeking a candidate from the field. I hope to be able to be of service to you as you undertake this venture. The one thing that I believe that I have to contribute is the perspective that is unique to me, namely; what this process looks like from the pastor's end of things. It's a wonderful exercise for me to be able, as well, to hear your perspectives. I have assisted a few congregations through the call process in the past when I briefly served as the Marshalltown Circuit Visitor some years ago. But every congregation and every call process is unique in many of its features. I view this as a great privilege and opportunity for learning on my part.

My first piece of (unsolicited) advice is to point out to you that just as you are looking for the best possible pastor to serve you and to meet your needs, be reminded that there are a lot of pastors out there who are, likewise, looking for the best possible congregation whereat he can exercise his particular skills most effectively, and a good community for his family.

I am sure you are all hoping for the best results in a timely fashion. (*Don't be in too much of a hurry, though – I still haven't paid off my daughter's wedding !*) But keep in mind, there are a lot of unknowns on both sides, the congregation's and the pastor's. And you can never guess the motivating factors when the potential players are unknown to each other. It's kind of like a blind date. Blind dates do work out sometimes. At least, I have to believe that – I met my wife on a blind-date. In a way, the call process is even trickier. What do you have to go on? A piece of paper? You can't cipher everything out of a form that people fill out. The best resume doesn't always show the best man. That's where we rely on the Holy Spirit; not only to guide our choices, but also to give us the mind of Christ to do our best to make the choices we make work. Much patience and forgiveness is called for as we try to live together in spite of our flaws.

I often tell couples engaged to be married – “pre-marital counseling has only very limited value because it's not really until you dive into marriage that the issues begin to show up that you have to work your way through”. I tell couples, “the best thing you can do is to determine ahead of time to go to counseling after you're married; after 6 months, and a year, and 2 years. If you decide to do so ahead of time, even if things are going great, as we hope that they will; if you decide beforehand to just go in for a check-up then seeing a counselor isn't perceived as an admission of failure from which the self-sufficient person recoils. And, indeed, there is no failure in the acknowledgement that we all require help, guidance, and the unique perspective that an objective, third-party can bring.”

Parishes and pastors should be encouraged to do this. Such would be an appropriate role for a circuit visitor, a District President, or a trusted counselor of some sort.

But, whatever you do, look at this process a lot like a marriage. You want to get through the 2

bumps and rough spots together. A pastor-congregation relationship should be viewed as a cooperative venture. If we take an oppositional stance to one another everyone is the poorer for it. Finding fault is corrosive. Finding ways to move forward together is salutary to all and entirely possible if we live out the gospel in sincerity and truth.

Every married couple involves two people with baggage, different perceptions, and different habits in regard to how they deal with conflict and anxieties. Part of the trick is to appreciate where each other has been and try to understand why we deal with stresses differently. But, again, all of this is possible if we possess the will and the good faith to work at our relationships cooperatively. *Pastor Picard*



Oct 15 — 8:00a Divine Service—Pastor Doellinger

Oct 15— 4:00p American Underdog at theater (OSL and Food Bank of Iowa)

Oct 22 — 8:00a Divine Service—Pastor Brandt plus Gary This presentation



Sprucing up the church property — Gail in the kitchen and Bob, JoAnn, Maria and Carole on the grounds!



LWML Convention in Milwaukee — July 22-25 — Carole and Julie joined thousands of LWML sisters to “Celebrate the Lord of the Nations” at this year’s convention. Pictured below is the banner, Carole and Julie ready for the mission walk and dropping off donations for the Phil’s Friends organization from OSL.



Calling all Ladies! Please join us on Monday, **September 18th** at 4:00 for our "back in action" meeting. All ladies are invited to help plan our calendar for the upcoming year and to enjoy a Bible Study. Our LWML chapter works hand in hand with the Care and Share committee so there are always good works to help with and to plan. Hope to see your smiling faces on the 18th! Be sure to bring any ideas about reaching out to our community, our congregation or to others.

VOTERS APPROVE PLANS TO REPAIR CHURCH

AFTER HAIL DAMAGE

Special **VOTERS' MEETING**

Thirty-five of our voters met on August 15 to hear a presentation detailing the progress made by our special committee to define a plan to repair damages to our church property incurred in a hailstorm on May 7, 2023. Rick Schiller, who chairs this committee, described how the repair quotations received to date compare to the roughly \$178,000 in insurance awards already distributed to us. The committee also investigated whether the 23 pairs of windows around the church that have compromised seals and mechanical function should be replaced while repairs caused by hail damage are being made. One theory suggested that modifying our roof line and installing windows flush with the walls might reduce the cost of the window replacement, however, the increased carpentry costs outweighed the window savings, dispelling this theory. The committee concluded that the repairs related to hail damage should proceed independent of any decisions on window replacement. A motion was made and passed to authorize the committee to move forward with repairs due to hail damage. Included in this authorization are plans to replace our standing seam steel roof over the sanctuary with a stone-coated steel shingle system. This is a lower cost approach and materials are warranted for 50 years rather than 20 years for the current design. The flat roof will be repaired by the same company that replaced the TPO (Thermoplastic Polyolefin) roof in 2018-19, but they will install a tapered foam system to aid in better watershed.

Voters also heard a thorough comparison of window replacement options including consideration of requirements at each window location. The committee was not seeking approval of a window replacement plan at this meeting because our chosen installer will not be available until early in 2024. That final decision will be sought at the October's Voters' Meeting so windows can be ordered and delivered by the time our installer is ready for them. We will conduct a campaign to raise funds for window replacement. Our success in fundraising will dictate what options we can consider in October, and whether the windows can be replaced all at once. Voters did provide immediate go-ahead to replace windows in the kitchen to solve our current access problem at those two locations. Those windows are scheduled to be replaced by early October.

Along with Rick, we thank Bob Mesner, Carol Twedt, Michael Weddell, and Gail Hartz for their service on this special committee. A copy of the presentation is available upon request to anyone who missed the meeting or would like to review the information further. Please inquire with Marsha if you'd like a copy.

THE CALL PROCESS BEGINS

The Voters Assembly at Our Savior overwhelmingly decided on August 15 to call our next pastor from the field, meaning that we will seek our pastor from the present group of ordained pastors serving other churches or in administrative positions or from the present group of pastors in "candidate" status, defined as ordained pastors presently without a call. This means that, at least initially, we will not call upon the LCMS Placement Committee to assign our congregation a new graduate from one of the two LCMS Seminaries as

our next pastor. Any church member may submit nominations provided the nominee is a rostered, ordained pastor in the LCMS. If you'd like to nominate someone to be our next pastor, please use the form provided in your July Voters packet or request one from Marsha in the office. Please provide the completed form to Marsha or an elder so Marsha can transfer it to electronic format. Doug DeJong has the responsibility to send all nominations to President Saunders to review and consider them for our list. President Saunders will supply a list of candidates for the Call Committee to review and bring forward to voters. We have been afforded the option, if we wish, to call from the field until mid February which marks the deadline for calling from the Seminaries. We will consider this option in January 2024. If we were to choose to call from the Seminary at that time, we would complete the necessary paperwork and Call Committee activity would cease as we'd wait to see if the LCMS Placement Committee places a Seminary graduate as our next pastor or not. Not all congregations who call from the Seminary receive a Seminary graduate due to low enrollment and high demand for them.

Until at least January, we will concentrate on calling a pastor from the field. A Call Committee has been assembled to review the list expected from President Saunders. Because of the extensive interest in serving on the Call Committee and the trend for the call process to last longer than it has previously, 15 members have been assigned roles on the 7-person rotating Call Committee. Each new "Active" Call Committee will stay in place for the time required to complete two calls taking roughly 4 months. Once added to the new "Active" Call Committee, members will serve for 8 months and then be in reserve for 8-12 months. The Active Call Committee list will be posted in the narthex throughout the call process so you will know who to contact with any questions or recommendations. Doug DeJong will serve as the Call Committee chairman. All 15 members will have had the opportunity to serve by late 2024 unless a pastor accepts the Call before that. This strategy is designed to build experience with the call process, include as many perspectives as possible, and avoid burnout in a process that may take longer than we'd expect. Fortunately, God has blessed us with a stable vacancy as we continue to receive God's gifts weekly and benefit from regular catechesis and pastoral care as needed. Please make plans to be available to attend every call meeting so your voice is heard in the process of discovering who God has in store to be the next pastor at Our Savior.

Active Call Committee

Each "new grouping" will serve for two calls (calendar is approximate)

2023				2024								2025											
S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A
Donita Huegel				Donita Huegel				Gail Hartz				Gail Hartz				Deanna Ihde				Deanna Ihde			
Deanna Ihde				Chris Roby				Chris Roby				Sue Fortune				Sue Fortune				Donita Huegel			
Julie Dlouhy				Julie Dlouhy				Selina McKinney				Selina McKinney				Julie Dlouhy				Julie Dlouhy			
Jerry Roby				Randy Ervin				Randy Ervin				Tim Huegel				Tim Huegel				Randy Ervin			
Doug Woebbecking				Rick Schiller				Rick Schiller				Doug Woebbecking				Doug Woebbecking				Jary Boger			
Jary Boger				Jary Boger				Ron Dlouhy				Ron Dlouhy				Jerry Roby				Jerry Roby			
Doug DeJong (C)				Doug DeJong (C)				Doug DeJong (C)				Doug DeJong (C)				tbd				tbd			

Full Call Committee

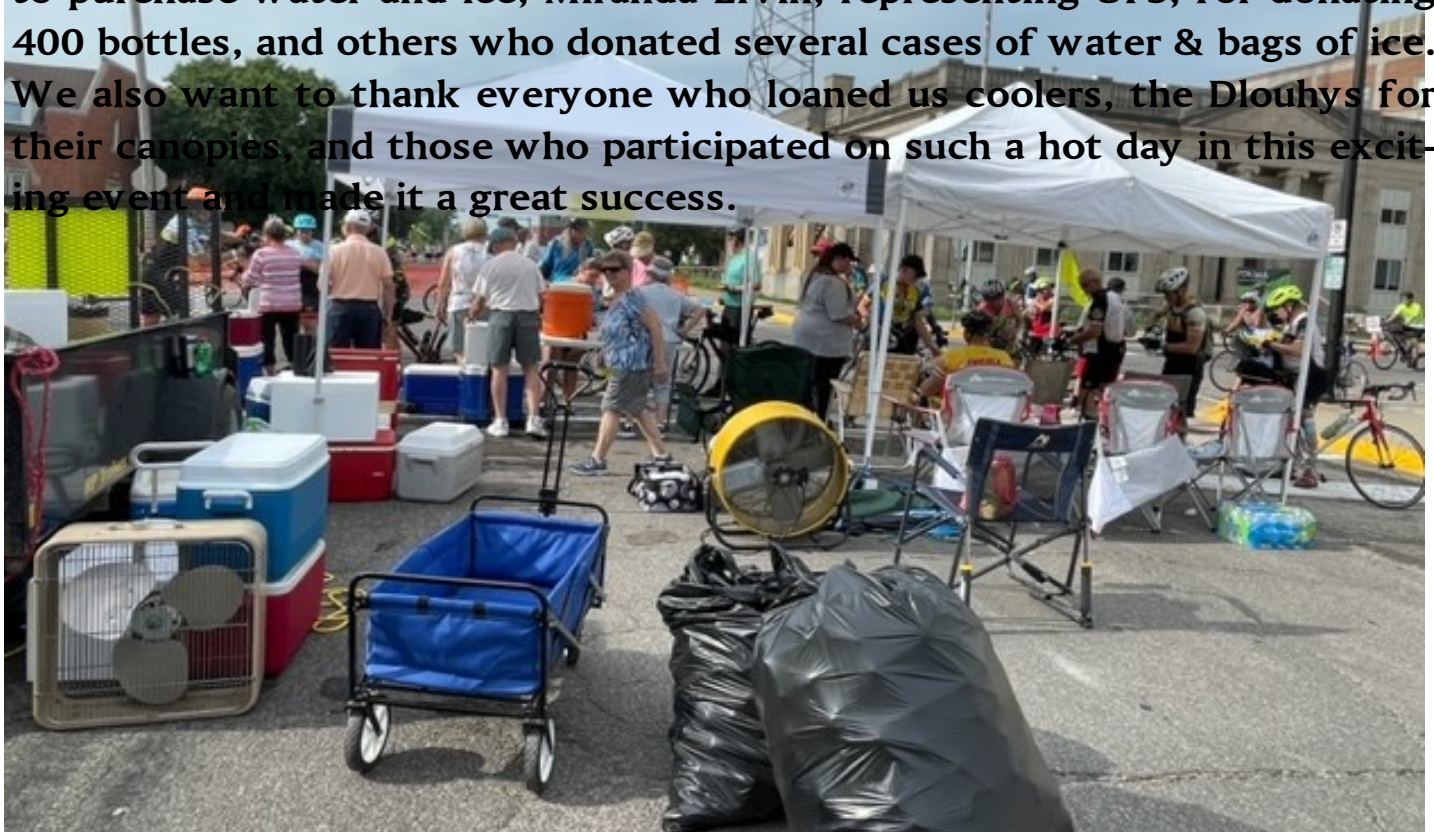
Jary Boger	Randy Ervin	Tim Huegel	Jerry Roby
Doug DeJong	Sue Fortune	Deanna Ihde	Rick Schiller
Julie Dlouhy	Gail Hartz	Selina McKinney	Doug Woebbecking
Ron Dlouhy	Donita Huegel	Chris Roby	

OSL Cares & Shares by Handing Out Free Water



On Wednesday, July 26, about 15 people met at Our Savior Lutheran Church to load water onto Doug Woebbeking's trailer and into Steve Shelton's truck in preparation for Thursday's RAGBRAI water giveaway. It was fun to see the caring and sharing as approximately 35 OSL members participated in handing out over 2,175

bottles to bike riders from all over the world. In addition to the bottles of water, we had 5 gallon water coolers available to fill bikers' reusable bottles. Those coolers were filled and refilled several times as approximately 80 gallons were given away using them. The riders were very appreciative. Unfortunately we ran out of bottled water around 10:30 and closed down around 11:15. We wish to thank LWML, which donated \$200 to purchase water and ice, Miranda Ervin, representing UPS, for donating 400 bottles, and others who donated several cases of water & bags of ice. We also want to thank everyone who loaned us coolers, the Dlouhys for their canopies, and those who participated on such a hot day in this exciting event and made it a great success.





“What a great mission for your church”, said Molly, Mesa, AZ





Iowa Cubs Outing

A little rain didn't stop the OSL group from enjoying 9 innings of Cubs baseball. Fortunately our seat selection - chosen to provide maximum shade in the event of a



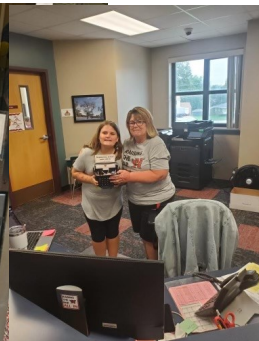
scorcher - instead, gave us just enough coverage to keep the drizzle away as well. 45 tickets were purchased (thanks Ron!), almost 80 hot dogs were consumed (thanks Randy!), and many took advantage of the door to door service provided with the Yellow Limo (thanks Steve!) Funds for this event were provided from the Iowa Speedway program sales. The only thing missing from this game was a Cubs win, but oh well, we still had a great time!



Recent School Supply Collection delivered to United Way. Thx, OSL, for your generosity!



WELCOME BACK SWEET TREATS were delivered to area schools for the new school year! Couriers in-



clude Rylee, Mackenna, Pat, JoAnn, Carole, Randy & Jo. SWEET!