

**Minutes of OLOL Pastoral Council Meeting  
November 19, 2025**

**Excused:** Rebecca Porter; Cathy Markwiese, Cory Anshus, Denise Hausey,

**Present:** Deb Steppe, Mary Botsford, Pat McKay, Emerson Porter, Sr Judeen Schulte, Jim Stamatokas, Donna Van Wynsberghe, Barb Webber, Christine M. Yatchak, Terry Malloy, **Absent:** Jackie Dombrowski. **Guest:** Jim Wielgosz ( Director of Worship Ministries)

**Opening Prayer:** Reflection on 1Corinthians 13:

**Director's Report:**

Deb went over major events and issues for the past, present and future.

- “ Acts of Love”: a parish wide advent practice with acts of kindness, making a chain of acts of kindness.
- Tanya Gross, Director of Formation Ministries has started.
- Social Justice vs Human Concerns Committee Review
  - Both are very active and working in parallel
- Organization of Committees: create a list of current committee members, chairs and mission statements.
- Emergency Contacts: to be filled out by Parish Council and Finance Council members as well as employees
- Birthdays and Anniversaries:
  - The custom of announcing birthdays and anniversaries has been changed to the second week of the month to maintain the sacredness and focus of the liturgy. Discussion of the pros and cons of this followed.

**Old Business:**

- :Spotlight Update: Judeen Schulte stated that Cathy and Cory's articles are due in December. A new schedule for sign up will be brought to the next meeting. Thank you to all who wrote and continue to write very moving *Spotlight and Unsung Disciples* articles.
- 2025-2026 Pastoral Council Membership List was distributed to the Council members. Of note: Mary Alston has submitted her letter of resignation from the Council due to health reasons.
- Men's Retreat: A discussion regarding ways to begin a men's retreat at OLOL was held.
- Octoberfest 2025 : Barb Webber reported that the profit for the 2025 Octoberfest was \$22,000, \$2,000 more than the previous year. This was attributed to hard work by all as well as increased efforts in advertising and business contacts.

**New Business:**

Jim Wielgosz presented to the Council a summary of his SuperHero presentation at a previous GIFT which was focused on linking people to ministries.

- Several personality tests for adults were administered to find a best fit for ministry matches.
- Some observations:
  - An area of high need continues to be ushers.

- People showing interest in social justice action were forwarded to the Social Justice committee, and the same for other committee interests.
  - Some of the present groups in the parish are close knit
  - There is a need to make room for new people seeking active participation
  - Difficult to link new members to groups when group leaders are unknown
  - We need to find ways to inject young people into the parish who are expressing interest in engaging
- Council Reflections
    - Christine Yatchak: There is a subcommittee focused on increasing engagement and membership. It is good to know that there are young members that are seeking involvement. Need to put effort into creating a welcoming culture among parish groups.
    - Sr. Judeen Schulte: In response to Deb's comments about identifying committees, Judeen shared that in 2019, two meetings were called to bring all parish groups together to share the mission of each group and identify where there may be potential synergy among groups. The COVID shut down prevented the third meeting from occurring in March 2020 and concluded the process. Judeen will share materials from the previous sessions.
    - Barb Webber: Getting group leaders together within a retreat context is a productive direction to take. We need to consider daytime vs evening opportunities for involvement to meet the needs of various schedules.
  - Jim Wielgosz suggested constructing an organized database of talent and personal contact that could reflect the various skills that were put forth at GIFT: flower care, painting, sewing, cleaning, baking, photography, sign language
    - Deb pointed out that parishioners should not drive other parishioners who call for rides to church due to liability issues.

- **2025-2026 Priority of Goals and Visions**

- Donna Van Wynsberghe and Deb Steppe presented a list of 2025-2026 Pastoral Council goals and priorities. These will be shared with the Staff in the future. Some of the major goals include: establish a men's retreat, a GIFT session to address addictions of all kinds, establish a safety and well-being committee such that the Pastoral and Finance Council and new staff be trained in AED use, find out what young families and new families need and want, strengthen missionary outreach to All Saints, Haiti and St.Bens, etc. The Council discussion emphasized the importance of building relationships. The Council also concluded that these goals./priorities should be presented to the Staff, so we all are working together.

- **Committee Reports:** : An abbreviated presentation of committee reports was done due to time.

**Opening Prayer/scripture for February meeting:** Barb Weber

**January 21, 2026, Meeting:** Retreat: Pizza at 5:30 and Retreat with Pastoral Council, Finance Council and Staff: —6:00 Meeting

**Closing Prayer:** Deb Steppe

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Yatchek and Donna Van Wynsberghe