

Joint Cluster Meeting- 1-26-26
7:00 OLL Parish Center

Called to order: 7:10PM by Bryan Bichler

Members present:

OLL: Natalie Brochtrup, Bryan Bichler, Leon Jacoby, Jenny Schwab, Lina Vorpahl, Amy Schmit, Kari Stone, Marilyn Sabec, Bobby Slocum, Deb Hamm, Chad Keller

DS: JoAnn Karpin, Rusty Zimmerman, Mary Navis, Hannah Shiningier, Barb Duenk, Tina Wick, Eric Poggeman, Shane Van Roo, Susan Urbaniak, Deb Hamm

1. Opening Prayer: Bryan Bichler led the opening prayer provided by Amy Schmit.

2. Education Home and School report- Lynn Sauer

*Catholic Schools week is occurring from Jan. 25-Feb. 1. Many activities surrounded the week.

*Fr. Ariel Orozco started visiting the school. He will be meeting with Terri Riesselmann to develop a schedule to include time at the school and Faith Formation classes. He will be with us through the 3rd Tuesday in June.

*Quotes are being gathered for windows at the school.

*DSCS has been awarded an \$8,000 grant from the Catholic Community Foundation to help offset the cost of the therapy program for students who are struggling with anxiety or challenging anger issues.

*The Middle School students are studying the Saints and organized a Saint Fair in December.

3. Parish Director's Report: Deb Hamm

*Lisbon Creek, the Audio-Visual company attempted to finish the speaker installation at OLL, but did not have the correct wiring. They will come back to complete the job when they have the correct product. Microphone options for both priests are being addressed. They will schedule a time to come to Divine Savior in the next few weeks.

*Deb will be meeting with representatives from Life's Connection. This is a resource for parishioners who are experiencing pregnancy loss and they will provide Deb and the parishes with materials and resources that can be utilized during that difficult time.

*The Archdiocese is in the process of reorganizing. Please be patient as they work on their website to smooth out glitches. They may decide to sell the current building as needs have changed over time and the current structure doesn't meet current needs.

*Archbishop Grob will be speaking to the Faith Formation classes on Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2026 about Demonology at 6:30 at the OLL site.

*Bryan Bichler and Jim Barton organized an usher training for the ushers at OLL in December, 2025. They were able to be instructed on CPR. Further training will be conducted in the future.

*Stop the Bleed training will be available on February 27, 2026 at 9:00 AM. Anyone who participates in a parish ministry is encouraged to attend.

*The Lenten Series for 2026 will be held on Tuesdays, Feb. 24, March 3 and March 10.

The schedule will be:

6:00: Mass

6:30: Soup supper in the OLL gym

7:00: Speaker Series- People on the Margins presented by Fr. Steve and Fr. Don.

*An Encounter night is planned for March 24, 2026 from 6:30-8:00. Please watch the bulletin for details.

*April is Volunteer Appreciation month. Darrell Boeck is organizing a video highlighting some of our dedicated parish volunteers. A thank you banner is being planned as well as an ice cream social to thank our volunteers at hospitality.

3. Old Business:

No old business was discussed.

4. New Business:

a. Mass Counts from the Christmas season were provided. Overall, the attendance was approximately 100 people less than last year's reported attendance.

b. Ministry registries: A suggestion was made to have a phone list of ministry members to use in the event of needing a substitute. Ministry members would have the option of providing contact information and it would be a good opportunity to update preferred contact information.

c. Lenten Soup Series- see Parish Director's report for more information

d. Lenten Reconciliation: See Parish Director's report for more information

e. Parish Council election timeline: The election timeline for 2026 is as follows:

March- 22- Discernment Article in bulletin

29- Trustee Forms available in Parish Office

April- 12- Presentation at Masses, pastoral council forms in bulletin

20- Pastoral council nomination forms due at 12:00 Noon

27- Trustee forms due at 12:00 Noon

May- 3- Trustee bios in bulletin, announcement regarding elections

14- Divine Savior Discernment- 6:30 PM

17- Trustee Election

20- OLL Discernment- 6:30 PM

f. Thoughts on eliminating July meeting: Diocesan rules state that councils must meet 6 times per year. Discussion about changing the time to 6:00 PM and offering desserts rather than a potluck for hospitality was discussed.

5. Other New Business:

*Discussion regarding alternating the meeting times based on host site occurred. No action was taken, and may be considered at a later date.

*Divine Savior Catholic School is looking for a representative from OLL to serve on the school advisory committee. They meet on the Second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 in the DSCS gymnasium.

*That Man is You is a thriving ministry. The possibility of a Women's ministry counterpart was discussed. There is currently not a companion ministry in our parish, however, there is one available through the company that provides the men's programming.

6. Closing Prayer- the councils prayed a closing prayer provided by Natalie Brochtrup

7. Adjournment: motion by Mary Navis

Seconded by: Marilyn Sabec

Adjournment time: 7:48 PM

Next meeting;

March 23; 7:00 PM @Holy Cross Chapel

Respectfully submitted,

Natalie Brochtrup

OLL Pastoral Council Secretary