

Grace Lutheran Church Council Minutes

April 23, 2015

In Attendance:

*Pastor Paul Bulgerin

*Pastor Heidi Borkenhagen

Ruth Schmidt

*Jim Mulholland

*Mara Schwartz

*Darlyne Holle

*Trudi Biefeld

*Lisa Bernd

*Sarah Ganaway

*Melanie Arndt

*Aimee Lempke

*John Walch

*Scott Donovan

*Katie Eippert

*Laurie Gosselin

The meeting began at 7:20p.m. With President John Walch presiding. Pastor Paul opened the meeting with a prayer.

DEVOTIONAL: Jim Mulholland

APPROVAL OF THE **MARCH 2015** MINUTES

PASTOR PAUL'S REPORT:

Moving Forward with the Building Project: Now that we have had the congregation vote to approve our "Grow In Grace" building program the next big steps begin. My thanks go to all who have worked so hard to bring us to where we are now.

I am going to start working early this summer on our fall stewardship program and all that needs to be done to encourage people to follow up their votes to build with financial commitments that will support our building program.

I've talked briefly with Janet Sladky about contacting the special stewardship person who works with Groth and Catalyst to get some help and suggestions for putting together our program for the fall.

We should also soon start to have initial conversations about a debt reduction campaign starting in 2017 when our "Grow In Grace" campaign ends.

"God's Work Our Hands" Day in September: We need to start planning for our fall work day in May. We had a very successful "Operation Inasmuch" day last September and I want this fall's work day to be as much as success.

Cluster Assembly: I attended this meeting on Saturday, April 18 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Random Lake. It was designed for those who will be attending the synod assembly on May 30-31. As of now it does not appear as if there will be any resolutions presented at this year's synod assembly.

Summer Preaching: I am going to be gone for a number of Sundays this summer when I am on the adult mission trip and the Boundary Waters trip. I've been working to make sure that our preaching schedule is worked out well in advance. Most of the dates are already filled. I still need to recruit someone for June 28, our outdoors worship service. I'm going to ask Howard Vrankin if he can preach then.

I'm also working with the Christian organization Food for the Poor to have one of their pastors preach on Sunday, July 12. We have had Food for the Poor pastors here in the past. We would need to pay for a hotel for one night for this pastor and we also need a volunteer to pick him up at Mitchell Field on Saturday, July 11 and get him back there after the service on July 12.

Affirmation of Baptism Service: The Worship Planning Team has decided to move this special service back to 10:30 a.m. For the past several years we have had a special service at 12:15 p.m. The date of the Affirmation of Baptism service is Sunday, May 17. A motion was made by Pastor Paul to approve all of this year confirmands who have fulfilled all of the requirements to affirm their baptismal promises. This was second by Darlene Holle and carried.

Adult Mission Trip: We currently have six people signed up for the trip to Moore, OK from June 27 to July 3. I would like us to have at least eight people go on the mission trip. Recruitment continues.

PASTOR HEIDI'S REPORT:

Worship: Thanks to all who helped make our Holy Week services so meaningful, especially to our musicians, the liturgical arts group, and those who helped read at the "Cry of the Whole Congregation" service on Palm Sunday.

Building Project: I am so excited that we had such a wonderful turnout for our meeting on April 19. Thanks to John Walch, Janet Sladky & the Building committee, and the many, many people who have helped get us to this point. I can't wait to see the building take shape and to be able to expand and better our ministries! God is Good!

TNT: Lots going on! A few of us had a good time helping out and participating in the All People's "Little Sprouts" program, which is for kids ages 2-7. Brian and I are hosting a BBQ on Memorial Day, Chris Eippert is planning a Chinooks game June 14, Pat and Chantal Murack are hosting a cookout August 22, and Brooke Napiwocki is coordinating a Summer Sounds event.

Noisy Offering: We raised just over \$1500 for ELCA World Hunger with our "God's Global Barnyard" and piggy banks! It was awesome. We will be able to purchase all the animals we focused on during our Lent FAITH5 Devotions and services- Oxen, Chicks, Fish, Sheep, & Pigs- as well as a goat and multiple chicks and pigs!

Lydia Circle: I'm organizing another retreat at Pine Lake Camp May 2-3. The theme is "Garden Getaway: Where women walk with God." There are 15 women signed up to attend.

Sabbatical: I'm planning to be gone from June 15-Mid August (either 11th the 18th). Some of my plans include going to extended family camp, Habits of the Heart: A Courage and Renewal Retreat with Parker Palmer, a family ministry conference (one will be in May and I'm looking for another one), my family reunion, a trip with my whole family for my parent's 50th anniversary, probably a visit to family in Pennsylvania and Virginia, and a few other things I'm also still looking in to.

AIM RUTH'S REPORT: No Report

DIRECTOR OF INVOLVMENT:

Ugandan Kids Choir: A few years ago, we had the Uganda Kids Choir here to perform. They will be back in our area August 4-12 & would like to perform here again. They require housing for 2-3 nights (depending on when they are here), transportation to & from the host families house, a room here at church to practice & school plus a few meals.

I know part of it is during VBS & I already asked them if we would be able to do it the earlier part of their time here & as of right now it works.

I am asking if we would be able to have them here again. I can provide more information at the meeting.

50th Anniversary Celebration: For the month of May our service of the month is Crossways Camps. Pastor Paul will be introducing the camp to the congregation on Sunday, May 3. The confirmation kids will be taking all of the donations to the camp when they go for their week in June.

I went to the Worship Planning Meeting on March 31 to see what they wanted the committee to do for the special service on April 19.

Our committee set up all of the chairs in Fellowship Hall & displayed fun artifacts in the Gathering Space for people to look at after the services on April 19.

I sent out letters inviting the 6 charter members to the services on April 19. Five of them were able to make it. They all received a flower to let everyone know they were a charter member. Pastor Heidi also recognized them during her children's message. After each of the services Laurie Gosselin served cake because who doesn't like cake.

We will be having our next meeting on May 6. At that meeting we will be planning for the June 14 baptismal service (which will include a baptism) & starting to plan the September 20 Anniversary Picnic. I have already contacted the Greater Milwaukee Synod & put the date on the bishop's calendar so that he is able to be here. We will be catering a picnic & we will be worshipping at one outdoor service that morning. It will be an awesome event!

Women's Book Study: The book study is going great. Lots of wonderful women gathering every month. We really got lucky – the author of the book we are reading will be coming to Wauwatosa in June & many of the women including myself are going to see her speak. It will be fun to do together with both groups.

FELLOWSHIP:

Nothing to report for Fellowship.

PROPERTY:

Let's see,..... What's new with respect to our church? Hmm, we have a go ahead vote from the congregation to proceed with our building plan. These are exciting times for us all.

Our Building committee will be meeting with the Architect from Groth next week Wednesday April 29th to discuss the next step, and in moving forward from taking conceptual drawings into working building blueprints and administrative documents.

At this time I'd like to get some firm ideas together for the mechanical issues in the existing part of the building to cross reference with what will be included in the build portion and what should be done outside the scope of the build. Furnaces, air conditioning, and choir roof repairs.

It has come to my attention from Dennis Burris, he extracted some 36 gallons of water from the choir area after a recent rain.

CHRISTIAN CARE:

We received five new families into our congregation on March 29. There were 10 adults and 11 children in the group! Several of our new members are already involved in groups and activities. The reception went well with Courtney Bernd volunteering to narrate the Power Point presentation.

I'm working on a survey for anyone who has been a "new member" in the past couple of years. I'd like to know what we're doing that makes new members feel welcome and encouraged to get involved, what we can be doing better, and what we might do differently. If anyone has input on topics I should specifically address, please feel free to let me know.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

Sunday School

-April 19: 1-6th graders will watch a video in Luther

High School

-Palm Sunday brunch went well, raised \$534 for Boundary Waters trip

-April 19th: Combined KFC, JYG and Hype Christian Skate taking place

-May 3: Rock climbing

-Blood Center approached Grace about wanting to get the HS youth involved in donating. Will provide info on an upcoming scholarship drawing donation event at St. Paul's. They also said they would be happy to come on a Sunday and speak to the kids about donating blood.

KFC/JYG

-30 Hour Famine is now the ELCA World Hunger Famine event

-Taking place the night of May 2

-Jessica Korison and Kelsey Mantel are working with P. Paul to organize

-Will be collecting donations and all games/activities are about world hunger

VBS

-Will have student and volunteer registration information up on May 3

WORSHIP:

The Holy Week services were discussed. Special music is planned. Multiple readers are being recruited, especially for the Good Friday service.

The April services were reviewed. Special attention was given to the logistics of the April 19 Anniversary services including location of the musicians and communion. Pastor Mark Peterson will not be able to attend, and Pastor Paul will preach.

The pastors are starting their planning for the May services and they will be discussed in more detail at the next service. Paul will be preaching on May 5.

There is interest in a sermon theme addressing faith in the current time of violence throughout the world.

OUTREACH:

I am very happy to report that besides the 50 enhanced Easter Meals that were assembled for APC, we also gave them a donation of \$371.55 for their food pantry. (We actually sold 117 meal tickets!) The bags were assembled by Lisa, Katie (along with Emma and Will) and me. They were delivered on April 1st by Beth, Lisa and me along with 15 Personal Care Bags by Evan Bernd and Kaitlyn Ewe. The group also helped organize the "temporary" food pantry prior to attending their Prayer Service. On April 15th, 9 Grace members helped serve 347 people at St. Ben's. I am happy to say that we had some new people serving this time around. Our next St. Ben's date is July 14th. A thank you email was received by Family Sharing thanking us for donating 75# food during the month of Feb. We also received a Thank you note from APC for the Easter Meal Donation. Both are posted on the Outreach Bulletin Board.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

1. Gas and electric are now caught up since we paid both February and March bills in March.
2. Our offerings through March (\$112,688.00) moved ahead of last year at that time (\$106,839), and we actually caught up on budget expectations this month – we were \$12,003.00 behind at the end of February, and are now \$8,487.00 behind at the end of March.
3. Building fund net balance increased from \$272,017.00 to \$277,696.00 over the month. That is despite paying Groth Design \$2517.20 in fees, and also paying Professional Services \$3050.00 for site borings, etc. during March.

The big thing to note is that the offering is ahead of last year but still behind budget. The budget isn't as crucial since it isn't pro-rated by month.

VPT:

The team met with Pastor Paul to review their current direction on the two positions to replace AIM Ruth. We discussed expectations for the new positions and were able to achieve strategic alignment. The team will also be looking to reach out to CEC and other groups that work closely with AIM Ruth and the youth ministries to gain further understanding of needs, ability/willingness to fill gaps, and look for new ideas to grow our youth ministries.

Business Old & New:

- Eryn's request for travel funds – Amiee Lempke made a motion to give Erin funds towards expenses for an upcoming convention. This was second by Mara Schwartz and carried.
- Building next steps
- Funding Building thoughts

News/Notes/Sharing:

CLOSING PRAYER: John Walch