

Grace Lutheran Church Council Minutes

August 27, 2015

In Attendance:

*Pastor Paul Bulgerin	*Darlyne Holle	*Aimee Lempke
*Pastor Heidi Borkenhagen	*Trudi Biefeld	*John Walch
Ruth Schmidt	*Lisa Bernd	Scott Donovan
*Jim Mulholand	*Sarah Ganaway	*Katie Eippert
Mara Schwartz	*Melanie Arndt	Laurie Gosselin

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

APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 2015 MINUTES

PASTOR PAUL'S REPORT:

"God's Work Our Hands" Sunday: Plans are coming along well for September 13. We have about 85 people signed up so far and all ten of our projects have volunteers.

We still would like to add some small painting and yard work projects and are having difficulty finding agencies that can help us make connections with these. *If any council members have ideas where we could make contacts to set these up please let me know.*

Anniversary Sunday: Plans are well-underway for the special September 20 Fiftieth Anniversary Sunday. We are having one service at 10:00 a.m. The tentative plans are for the service to be outside, but whether on the north or south lawn we're not quite sure since that depends upon any construction work that may have begun by that date. Bishop Jeffrey Barrow is preaching at the service.

Following the service we will have a ceremonial ground breaking involving our charter members. A pig roast follows. Invitations have been sent out for the meal and RSVPs have been coming in at a good pace.

October Stewardship: I postponed the letter I was going to send out to the congregation in August about stewardship since we sent out the special letter about the August 30 special congregational meeting. I will send out a letter in early September asking members to consider significant increases in their giving for 2016 to help cover our new church mortgage.

I am also going to recruit some volunteers who would be willing to make some phone calls or talk to members, again encouraging significant increases.

I'm going to recruit a couple of people to share their personal stories about giving during worship on September 27 and during the stewardship Sundays.

The actual stewardship Sundays will be the first two in October.

Talking to People about the August 30 Special Meeting: With the vote on August 30 coming up please take the time to talk to people you know at church and encourage them to be here for worship and the meeting that day. We want to make sure that the members who supported the building program at the April meeting are here to support this final vote. So, please talk to people about this.

"Evangelical Lutheran Worship" Hymnals: We have purchased the new hymnals and they have arrived. We'll put them out in the pews in early September and have a prayer of dedication over them

at that time. We will let members know that almost everything in the green “Lutheran Book of Worship” and the blue “With One Voice” hymnals is in the new ELW so they aren’t losing anything dear and familiar. My thought is to let members take copies of the LBW and WOV if they would like them. I will send a “Thank You” letter to the family who made this anonymous gift to the church.

PASTOR HEIDI’S REPORT:

Worship: I am excited to be with my Grace family in worship again! I missed that when I was on sabbatical.

One of my yearly goals is to do a sermon series on the FAITH5 ideas that we used for our Lent devotions and in the class I taught last winter. Those are scheduled to begin October 18, and the 5 weeks will focus on the tenets of FAITH5- Share, Read, Talk, Pray and Bless. I’m really excited to spend some time looking at the Biblical basis for this and to encourage more of our Grace members to use this great tool.

An extra goal I have is to begin looking at some new liturgies/songs/ideas to try out in worship in the coming months. We will be discussing this at Worship Planning and I’ll meet with Eryn also.

HYPE Youth Group: I’m meeting Sunday with Pat and Chantal Murack, as well as some youth who will be taking a leadership role this year: Ian Walton, Grace Aspenson, and Jack Walch.

TNT: This summer we went to a Chinooks game, summer sounds, and had a cookout. I’m looking in to doing another event with All People’s in the Fall- either joining them for worship or a service event.

Lydia Circle: We kick off on September 22, continuing with our book “The Good and Beautiful Life: Putting on the character of Christ.”

Women’s Book Group: We will start again in October. This year we’ll be reading “Bad Girls of the Bible (and what we can learn from them)”.

Retreat: One of my goals for the year is to do a one-day retreat here at Grace, most likely using one of the curriculums I’ve used with the Lydia Circle retreat. I may look for something else as well if those ladies want to attend and don’t want to do a repeat. I’m looking at November 7 as a tentative date.

Summer Schedule: I continue 2 days in the office until September 8- then I will be here 3 days- Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Sabbatical: I had a wonderful sabbatical. It was a special gift, and I was grateful for it every day. I wrote a brief article for the Good News, and I will be putting together much longer thoughts for anyone who is brave enough to read through them. I’ll also be offering a couple times to share with people what I did and learned, probably one during education hour this Fall and one at another time. Thank you so much for this opportunity, and a special thanks to Pastor Paul and all who helped cover things in my absence.

AIM RUTH’S REPORT:

Vacation Bible School: God-Force was definitely with us at VBS this year. Adventure Park, as you read in Katie’s report, was a huge success. It was so great having a good turnout on Sunday. I had great 6th graders to work with. They loved to participate in the openings, closings and Sunday worship. I was surprised and thrilled with an awesome gift, organized by Katie and made by Mari Goecks and the kids. Big time thanks to Katie Eippert for her outstanding work as Director.

Confirmation: I've held two orientation times to meet with 7th graders, and their families, who are beginning our Confirmation ministry this year. We have a class of 11. I'm still looking for adults that will serve as Guides.

Sunday School: This year, our theme is ***Faith Under Construction***. Not only will we be adding to our building, we'll also continue to build our faith relationship our loving God. Last night, we had a great turnout for our staff orientation meeting. Our 1st – 6th grade rotation classes will work a little differently this year because of our building project. Once a month we'll have a movie Sunday in which we'll also be studying the Apostles Creed. Parents will also be invited to attend on these Sundays and popcorn will be served. We are hoping to welcome a K3 class of 14-16. I've had one Keeping the Promise gathering and am holding a second one on the 15th for families that couldn't make the first one. Eryn, Joyce and I have already been talking about the special Christmas Pageant (or whatever we'll call it) coming to Grace on December 20th. Stay tuned for further up-dates.

Operation Inasmuch: I'm serving on the Planning Team for Operation Inasmuch in a minor role this year, taking care of the T-shirt orders. Thanks to Ed who is taking over for me while I'm on vacation.

Women's Brunch Bible Study: Members of the group met over the summer for a wonderful lunch outside at Dockside Deli. We begin our regular meetings on Sept. 10th. The women have chosen the book *The Family of Jesus* by Karen Kingsbury. Laurie Gosselin's mother's church is lending us the DVD and other study materials needed. New Brunchers are always welcome.

KFC: All our former volunteer leaders are moving on and not available for our Preteen Ministry Group this year. I'm sending out invitations to select 4th – 6th grade families to invite them for an Italian dinner here at Grace, in hopes that they'll catch the vision of the importance of preteen ministry and will be willing to help out.

Stephen Ministry: I feel you should know I'm stepping down from the Stephen Ministry program. In the past, I was involved in teaching a few lessons for minister training. I've had a lot of health problems this summer and, unfortunately, need to step back, where I can.

DIRECTOR OF INVOLVMENT:

The caterer is hired, invitations are mailed, games are being planned, & much more. We have started getting in RSVP's so all looks like it is right on track.

July's service project was school supplies for Family Sharing. I dropped off two overflowing carts of supplies. We got a lot of wonderful donations from the congregation & a generous monetary donation from the Evening Moms Group that helped donate so many items for the people in our community. We also had volunteers from our congregation help at Family Sharing sort & hand out the supplies. We have such an awesome congregation.

Our service for August is Family Promise. They are a new service that our congregation is becoming involved with. We tried to pick a few new opportunities for our congregation to become involved with for the next 50 years. September has God's Hands Our Work Day on September 13. This will be another great day for our congregation.

Women's Book Study: This week was our last meeting of our summer book study. It was a great book. Pastor Heidi & I will be starting our next book study in October. I am looking forward to reading another great book & discussing it with another great group of women.

VBS: I assisted Katie with whatever she needed to make her week easier.

E-Giving: I continue to process our e-giving each month as well as entering the contributions. Aimee & I have also filled in as counters this summer when the counting has not been done.

Good News, Grace Notes, Responsibility Reminders & Insert: I continue to do all of them. The Grace Notes & the insert are done on Wednesdays & the Good News once a month. I also sent out the responsibility reminders weekly.

Mailers: This month I sent out the 50th Anniversary celebration invitations to all of the members, sent out the congregational mailing to invite everyone to come to the special meeting & Sunday School staff post cards.

Sunday School Promotion: I promoted all of the preschool – 12th grade in Servant Keeper.

Funeral: I had the privilege of serving the meal after Joanne Fugate's funeral.

Summer Hours: The summer office hours are going to be ending the week of September 6.

FELLOWSHIP: No Report

PROPERTY:

Our custodian Dennis Baruss is currently out on a medical leave since July 31st. He is expected to be out at least a week or more. His return has not been determined at this time. Lisa has brought in Erica Dimmett to temporarily assist in cleaning the church beginning Monday August 24th 2015. The building committee along with Groth Design and Catalyst Construction will be meeting again on Thursday September 3rd to finalize construction costs. A few notes regarding previously unknown cost: The village of Grafton will require an air make-up system be installed with the new kitchen. We also have to run new sanitary lines around the outside of the building, screens surrounding the ventilation systems on the roof, and the congregation as a whole wants the entire building sprinkled. I've also received an email from Eryn Durlam regarding a piano from the Defenbaugh family which would need to be received by Grace by the end of August. I'm not sure if we even want this piano, and if we have a place to store it during the upcoming renovation? Your thoughts?

CHRISTIAN CARE:

I have a draft of the New Member survey completed. I will be speaking with Pastor Paul at the Council meeting on Thursday to schedule a time to go over the survey with the Pastors after which I can make changes if necessary and then distribute to the New Members who have joined in the past two years.

Trunk or Treat will be held on Sunday, October 25. Korey Gierach will help out with this event. Lisa is planning to include a note announcing it in the September Good News.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

Sunday School

- Will purchase new rotation curriculum. Special price of \$1000 for 6 years of curriculum (normal price is approx. \$800 for one year).
- Working on finalizing Sunday School teachers. Many are returning from last year.
- This year's Sunday School Theme: Faith Under Construction
- Construction Plan--Pre-school and kindergarten kids will remain in their current locations: Suomi, Carthage and Wartburg. 7th & 8th graders will use a half of one of those rooms. Majority of Sunday School rotation will take place in Fellowship. Have larger group "instructions" together and then will split into age-related groups within the room to do the activity. During the movie rotation, we'll invite

families to join for a fun “special” construction movie event. High school youth will continue to meet in the youth room.

KFC/JYG

- Jessica Korrison and Kelsey Mantel will continue to help with JYG and 7th/8th grade Sunday School. Want to organize a trip to the Quake.
- Ruth will host a dinner in Sept. to try and recruit parents to help with KFC. Activities will begin in Oct.

High School Youth Group

- Successful trip to Boundary Waters. Beginning to work on trip for next summer.

Confirmation

- Jessica and Kelsey would like to join the 8th grade confirmation mini-retreat at Pine Lake in Nov.
- 10-11 students joining confirmation classes in the fall.

VBS

- 106 students attended and 70 volunteers helped throughout the week
- congregation donated \$500-\$600 worth of supplies...huge thank you to everyone!
- Over 50 of the students participated in the Sunday VBS worship service
- 200 people attended Friday picnic after VBS

WORSHIP: No Report

OUTREACH:

July 14th, 5 members from Grace volunteered to serve at St. Ben's. We served 29 children and 353 adults, total of 382 people. Many of the volunteers have been there before and have their favorite “jobs” to perform. Mine is the “Hot Sauce giver-outer”.

August 23rd was the road trip to APC. 10-12 grocery bags of food from our Food Pantry donations were taken down. A pail full of rubber cleaning gloves and a “truck” full of clothing that was donated by Linda Lueck were also taken down. Katie also brought along VBS articles for APC.

Our next St. Ben's is Oct 19th. Our next food donation will be going to Family Sharing.

I have been in contact with Linda Muth from APC regarding their upcoming meal program with St. Vincent's. Nothing has been finalized yet, but Outreach plans on doing two nights at APC and then 2 nights at St. Ben's for 2016, which will be Jan 11 and July 13.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

A couple items to note are as follows:

1. Our offerings through July slid back again more - were \$13973.00 behind at the end of June, but now are \$21,700.00 behind – again, pretty typical for summer months.
2. We spent \$32,296.18 in Groth Design charges in July - \$31920.00 for design/development and construction documentation fees, \$318.68 for printing and postage and \$57.50 for state fees. The building fund net balance actually increased from \$273,026.00 to \$277,331.00 over the month - despite these large charges by Groth.
3. There was a large purchase for Sunday School and Confirmation of \$1000.00. This was due to a one-time opportunity to purchase 6 years of Sunday School curriculum materials for the price of 1 years-worth. Any questions on that, speak to Ruth.
4. I'm sure you are well aware of the process of applying for the building loan. I worked with John Walch today to gather documentation that is being required by the ELCA Mission Investment Fund people – source of the loan. As part of that process, we will be paying off the current mortgage so that we do not have two open mortgages on the property – this is a requirement of the MIF, but is also a good idea to not be juggling two mortgages.

VPT:

The Vision Planning Team has completed their recommendations for the two new part-time positions for Youth Education and Ministries (attached), which will be reviewed with the Council for approval.

Further discussion was held on the subject of finding additional committee members and a replacement for Janet Sladky as chair. We reviewed the current demographics of the group to identify any gaps in diversity. We will be bringing forward a list of suggestions for review at our next meeting.

Business Old & New:

-Vote on Loan Approval

-VPT update on new positions

-Pastor Paul Loan –

As part of the call process for Pastor Paul in 2001, Pastor Paul was extended a \$10,000 loan at 7% interest for his use as a down payment on his house.

Since that time, Pastor Paul has paid \$7,440.00 toward the loan.

After being made aware of this loan and the details, the church council discussed options at its August 27, 2015 meeting. The council has unanimously decided to forgive the entire loan in recognition of the faithful payments that have been made, the generosity of Pastor Paul and using biblical teachings on loans. The minutes of the council meeting will reflect this and this memo will serve as proof of loan forgiveness.

-Endowment committee secretary needed

-*Personnel Handbook

News/Notes/Sharing:

CLOSING PRAYER: Pastor Heidi