



## Council Minutes August 24th, 2017

### IN ATTENDANCE:

Pastor Paul Bulgerin	*Alissa Burgos (Secretary)	*Peg Lade (Worship)
*Pastor Heidi Borkenhagen	*Ed Eckert (Treasurer)	*Laurie Gosselin (Fellowship)
*Kerry Feutz (President)	*Pat Murack (Christian Education)	*Lisa Bernd (Director of Involvement)
Darlyne Holle (Past President)	Kelly Klug (Outreach)	*Sarah Brogni (Property)
*Mike McGraw (President Elect)	Valerie Salzman (Christian Care)	

Guest: Joel Dhien

The meeting began at 7:25 P.M. with President Kerry Feutz presiding.

Reflection led by Kerri Feutz

- ✓ Approval of meeting agenda
- ✓ Approval of the June 2017 minutes

### Pastors and DI Reports

#### **PASTOR PAUL'S REPORT:**

**Stewardship Planning for 2018:** There will be an online meeting with Pastor Mike Ward for the "Stewardship for All Seasons" (SAS) program on Monday, August 21. At this meeting, the churches involved in the pilot project are asked to have a "ballpark" estimate of increased giving needs for 2018.

I am working up a number that will include:

- At least a \$5,000 increase in our benevolence giving to move us closer to the 10% level
- Bringing Pastor Heidi to  $\frac{3}{4}$  during the summer while I am on sabbatical
- Salary increases for our church staff
- Small increases in advertising and youth ministry
- Some minor increases for our church home and its maintenance

After our three year capital fund appeal that saw our members give over \$950,000 and the two biggest annual increases in congregational giving in the history of Grace Lutheran (\$110,000 in two years), I am planning for a smaller stewardship program this year that does not seek another large increase. If we can keep it in the \$20,000-25,000 area, I think that would be a good thing.

The council will decide this fall about keeping part of the "Grow In Grace" funds currently in the bank to cover any potential budget shortfall for 2017. We can also decide if it is appropriate to also hold on to some of that money to help with the 2018 budget as well, if needed. The rest would then be applied to the principle on our mortgage.

The two Sundays for our stewardship emphasis will be October 8 and 15.

**"God's Work Our Hands" Sunday, September 10:** We have begun having people sign up to participate in our ELCA's national day of service. So far we have seven activities planned and hope to add several more. I encourage all council members to participate in one of them if you are in town that weekend.

**Visit to All Peoples:** We are not having worship at Grace on Sunday, August 27. Instead we are encouraging our members to be part of our Grace visit to All Peoples Gathering that day. The plan is to meet at Grace at 8:00 a.m. and drive to All Peoples for the 9:00 a.m. worship service. As All Peoples begins its search for a pastor to fill the position Pastor Steve Jerbi occupied we want to offer our brothers and sister in the faith all the support we can.



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**Sabbatical Church Tour Group in 2018:** I have been working with Gail Rennie from AMI Travel to put together a trip in June 2018 to follow "In the Footsteps of the Apostle Paul". This trip would be open to Grace members, friends and family and members of my former congregation, St. John's Lutheran in Brookfield. I plan to lead this trip and will have it be the first part of my 2018 sabbatical. The itinerary for the trip and estimated cost is being worked up now and I plan to start promoting it in the fall.

**Confirmation:** On August 8, I met with the new seventh grade students and their parents to talk about our confirmation program. The schedules for the seventh and eighth grade years have been completed. I am currently working on the ninth grade schedule. This year I will be meeting with the students two times per month instead on once a month.

**Men's Study:** I have purchased a DVD study called "Fathering 101: Be the Dad" and will start a group to use this in 2017-2018. My plan is to have the group meet one Saturday morning per month and use the whole year to go through the series.

**Boundary Waters Trip:** We had an excellent trip with wonderful weather. Most of you have heard about Kyler Nimtz and his health woes on and following the trip. He is now out of the hospital and getting stronger as he prepares for a second surgery to remove his appendix. Wilderness Canoe Base was kind enough to refund the money his family paid for the trip.

Erica Dimmett is working on plans for our 2018 high school youth group mission trip.

**Meg Boren to Preach:** Meg will be our guest preacher on Thursday, September 21 and Sunday, September 24. She will also lead the adult forum on Sunday.

The fund-raiser for Meg on July 15 went well.

### **PASTOR HEIDI'S REPORT:**

**Worship:** I met with Eryn to discuss plans for the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation Service on October 29. We have a theme and a basic outline that I'm working on, alongside her. I'll be talking with Vince also about how we can adapt it for the Celebration Service.

I officiated at the weddings of Allison Demerath & Jason Gensrick, as well as Sarah Slicker and Christopher Schneider.

**Summer Hours:** I've been in talks with Pastor Paul and Kerry Feutz about increasing my summer hours next year. With Pastor Paul on sabbatical, I won't be able to carry the work load of this congregation working just two days a week. We are also looking in to lining up some guest preachers and other people to help with various tasks when Paul is gone.

**HYPE Youth Group:** I will be leading many of the classes this Fall as the Muracks take time off to care for their new baby!

**Fall Book Group:** We will meet on Wednesday, September 20, 27 & October 4 at 7pm for a study on Marcus Borg's "Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time." I started publicity for it and hope we can get a good group together to dive in to this challenging material.

**TNT:** This group seems to have run its course. Many of the members who were active have now found other niches in church groups. With a new group aiming to start attracting members in their 20's and 30's, maybe it's time to let that group take over.



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**10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Grace:** What a lovely celebration of my 10 years of ordained ministry at Grace! Thank you to all who helped plan and celebrate with me. It was so thoughtful and I truly appreciate the kind words. I am blessed to be in ministry with all of you.

### **DIRECTOR OF INVOLVEMENT:**

**Door Signs:** The door signs should be ready soon. They are working on the final steps.

### **Building Updates:**

Sewer smell in the building. We started the VBS week with a horrible sewer smell in the building. We have had this happen before only on a smaller scale. We have a plan for the smaller scale smell which is pouring water down a drain in the maintenance room but this was past that. I contacted Matt Lempke & he contacted a wonderful plumber who came to the building (for no charge) & helped figure out the issue. We have lots of drains that need water in it. I have it on a schedule to pour water in all the drains.

Fire Department Called. On the last day of VBS the fire department was called because steaming water was poured in the sink & set off the smoke alarm. The fire department said that the smoke detector above the sink is the wrong kind & that we need contact the builder & have them replace the incorrect one. I have left \*\*\*Mike can you help me on this issue\*\*\*

Coffee Maker. The coffee maker is clogged again. I have followed the suggestions from ACI I have contacted John Walch, the manufacturer & the service company to see what can be done. John & the manufacturer gave me some ideas but none are realistic for us to maintain. I am not sure what is the next step. Kerry has reached out to John to see what he recommends our next step is. I have contacted services to get bids on renting again.

Tree. There is a tree next to the shed that is totally dead & will need to be removed. Please let me know how I should proceed with this issue.

ADA Doors. The ADA doors were installed this week. They are ready to be used. There will need to be a tweak made. They will be back in the next few weeks to made the adjustment. Thank you to all the members that made it possible to install them.

**Intentional Partnership Luncheon:** I have contacted St. Luke's in Slinger to get information on their Dine In or Dine Out (Intentional Ministries) program. Shelly is going to give me information on how to get our program started. We will be hosting the luncheon on Sunday, October 15 after the 10:30 am service.

**Regular Things:** I also continue doing the weekly inset, Grace Notes, the Good News, responsibility emails, entering contributions, e-giving & the million things that come up daily.

### **Attendance Report**

### **Open Issues**

- Emergency Plan (guest Joel Dhein)
  - Kerry Feutz created an emergency plan for Grace and sent it to Joel to review. He reviewed the plan in detail and provided feedback on format and what could be updated.
  - Joel provided great insight and his input was greatly appreciated.
  - Kerry will put together a final version to be discussed by Council and eventually the congregation.
- Banning Guns on Property (guest Joel Dhein)
  - Council had discussed in a prior meeting whether Grace should allow guns on premise. Kerry asked Joel to provide feedback on what decision should be made.
  - The pros and cons were discussed but ultimately it was decided that the "no guns allowed" signs really do no good. At this time, Grace will not be posting any signs against guns in premise



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- Custodian Position
  - Council discussed the most efficient way to keep our building maintained now that it has increased in size.
  - A motion was made to eliminate the employed custodial position and contract with a cleaning service due to the increased size of the building.
    - This motion was seconded and approved. (8 in favor and 1 abstain)
- Personnel Committee Update
  - Darlyne Holle was not present to give an update.
  - Kerry Feutz will call a meeting and will try to get together with this committee in the next two weeks.
- Seminary Cost Assistance Request for Karly Gosselin
  - Karly Gosselin is attending Denver Seminary in Littleton, CO. She requested financial assistance to help with the cost of seminary. (See letter at the end of the minutes)
  - A motion was made to give \$2,500 for the 2017/2018 school year. This will be discussed again in future years.
    - This motion was seconded and approved. (8 in favor and 1 abstain)

### **Committee Reports**

#### **CHRISTIAN CARE:**

I have been working hard on the photo directory and continuing to schedule people for the make up session. We had a great turn out for the pictures.

#### **FELLOWSHIP:**

Discussed upcoming events.

#### **FINANCE:**

Submitted and discussed latest monthly financial statement.

#### **OUTREACH:**

No Report

#### **PROPERTY:**

Discussed automatic doors, replacing corkboards, reseeding the lawn, repainting Sunday School rooms and, cleaning/organizing the boiler room.

#### **WORSHIP:**

- The WPT met on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. We opened with a prayer by Peg Lade
- Several members were absent for this meeting due to work obligations
- Pastor Paul lead us through his service plans for the next weeks, including these highlights:
  - Aug. 27<sup>th</sup> is worship at All Peoples
  - 2 Sunday services will resume on Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>
  - Meg Boren will be preaching on Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>
  - Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> will be stewardship emphasis Sunday
- Pastor Heidi reported next
- Eryn
  - Asked for agreement on the split of a \$780 memorial to the music department. She would like to split that 3 ways – the Jubilation choir, the Praise Team and the Bell Choirs.



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- We have been trying announcements at the end of the service
- Deb
  - First bell choir rehearsal will be the Monday after Labor Day
- Forward planning –
  - 12/24, Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year – the WPT is recommending no service that Sunday morning.
  - Does Council agree? ->Council agreed with this.
- Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017

### **YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY COMMITTEE:**

#### **Old Business**

- Courtney Bernd and Ellie Gosselin joined us to discuss starting a new group at church. We are unsure what exactly to cause the group but we are targeting emerging adults - those out of high school to just before starting having kids. We are looking at Bowling on August 19<sup>th</sup> as the first event.
- Nursery - Starting background checks for volunteers, having a check in form with parents phone numbers so they can be texted in church if needed. We decided not to have an age limit on nursery.

#### **Sunday School**

- Online Curriculum is being set up so teachers can access it. There may be an option for parents to access the take home worksheets etc.
- Youth Education Staff Meeting - August 24<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 7:30pm

**JYG** - Confirmation camp was great - we had 7 students attend

#### **HYPE**

- Ruby's Pantry went well - most students want to do it again in August
- Mission Trip - To Quad Cities Iowa with Youthworks. We are starting to look at dates for the trip. Those interested should contact Erica for date preferences.

#### **Special Programs**

- Splash with Jesus - Sunday July 30<sup>th</sup> - Service in the park next to the pool at 9am with the pool party 9:30 to 11:30am. Normal worship service will be at Grace at 9am.
- Bowling - Emerging Adults - August 19<sup>th</sup>
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Camp November 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>

#### **Brief August Update**

##### **Make a Splash for Jesus Pool Party**

- We had over 100 people join us for worship on July 30 outside of the Grafton Pool
- The service was led by volunteers including numerous middle and high school youth, Deb Donovan, Brett Mehre and Chris Eippert
- Afterwards, we had about 150 people join us for open swim and served up over 300 snow cones!
- Everyone has already began talking about "next year," so I would definitely do it again. We just want to pick a date farther from VBS.

##### **Vacation Bible School**

- VBS ran from Aug 7-11 from 9am to noon each day. The VBS worship service was on Sunday, Aug 13.
- 136 kids joined us for VBS (55 Grace members and 81 non-Grace members)
- Over 60 volunteers (7<sup>th</sup> graders through grandparents) assisted during the week



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- Countless people donated food and craft items (which help keep our costs down for families) and many others donated their time helping with all the decorations and clean up
- During the week, the kids donated items for All-People's Church Food Pantry, the Urban Ecology Center, the Adult Literacy Center and Children's Hospital of Wisconsin
- Next year's VBS will be Aug 6-10 and the theme will be Rolling River Rapids

### **Other Business**

Next Meeting – Thursday September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017 – Reflection – Ed Eckert

**Closing Prayer** Pastor Heidi



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Dear Grace Lutheran Church,

I am writing regarding my seminary education and the great financial burden that seminary puts on a seminarian. During my time at Grace Lutheran Church, I was molded into the young woman that I am through the pouring out of love from Pastor Paul and Pastor Heidi, AIM Ruth, my Sunday school and confirmation leaders, and from the members of Grace. I learned so much about what it means to follow God and trust Him with your entire being. I am so thankful for my time there and am so proud to call it my church home. Throughout my time at Grace and throughout my time at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, I felt a nudging from God to go into full-time ministry. For a while, I did not quite know what this meant and how God could use me to help other people learn about what it means to be in relationship with Him. I decided that to equip me for this, a seminary education is the next best step! So, following my completion of my Religious Studies Bachelor of Arts Degree and my Education and Educational Services Certificates at UW-Madison this past spring, I have decided to attend Denver Seminary in Littleton, CO. I am so excited for the ways that God will use this time to further shape me in my own faith journey and equip me for a life of full-time ministry serving Him and those around me. Unfortunately, seminary is a costly affair. I feel so incredibly blessed to have received the Kingdom Scholarship, which covers approximately half of my tuition and to have received a Ministry Residency Position at First Presbyterian Church of Littleton as their Director of Children's Ministry, who will pay the remainder of my tuition. Although these are amazing ways to cover some of the costs of seminary, there is still a large gap that I cannot pay out-of-pocket. My parents are currently putting my younger sister through her undergraduate schooling, and have one more on the way to college next year. Therefore, they cannot financially assist me as they would like to. Additionally, I have undergraduate loans that need to be paid off and would really like to avoid going into further debt post-seminary. I would really appreciate the financial assistance of my Grace Lutheran Church family in order to cover the costs of the gap that still exists regarding the Cost of Attendance. Currently, I am fundraising to cover the cost of housing, textbooks, and technology fees. These costs come to about \$5,000 for the entire year. Although I know that Grace will not be able to cover that cost in its entirety, I would so appreciate any financial assistance. Thank you for your time looking over my request and I pray that God continues to guide us in this process together!

Blessings,  
Karley Gosselin