



Council Minutes August 22nd, 2019

IN ATTENDANCE:

*Pastor Paul Bulgerin	*Jodi Doro (Secretary)	Kelly Olson (Worship)
*Pastor Heidi Borkenhagen	*Lynda Lalley (Treasurer)	*Wendy Freeland (Fellowship)
Mike Moran (President)	Jen Jacobson (Christian Education)	*Lisa Bernd (Director of Involvement)
*Mike McGraw (Past President)	*Kelly Klug (Outreach)	*Sarah Brogni (Property)
*Mark Barber (President Elect)	*Melissa Schmidt (Christian Care)	

(*) present at meeting

The meeting began at 7:28 P.M. with President Mike Moran presiding.

Reflection led by Mike McGraw

- ✓ Approval of meeting agenda motioned to approve - Mike McGraw; motion carried
- ✓ Approval of the June 2019 minutes motioned to approve - Sarah Brogni; motion carried

Pastors and DI Reports

PASTOR PAUL'S REPORT:

Stewardship Planning: Our stewardship group met again on August 14 to continue developing plans for the three weeks of stewardship in October. The theme is "Believe in Grace". The theme will hold up believing in God's grace through Jesus Christ and also believing in Grace Lutheran. A key part of this belief is our financial support for the work of the church.

We are working on the letters to be sent along with the brochure detailing our ministry and financial goals.

Pat Murack will share a stewardship temple talk on August 18 and Paul Singer will do the same on September 22.

We are also enlisting Adan Burgos' video talents to create three short videos to be sent out to the entire congregation via the "Grace Notes" and/or by posting them on the Grace website. These videos will summarize the messages of the three stewardship sermons on October 6, 13 and 20 so we can get a summary of them out to all members who were not in worship to hear them.

In addition to all this we are working with Thrivent Financial and Chris Beloin to see if we can have a Sunday School presentation on the importance of giving to tie into our congregational stewardship emphasis.

"God's Work Our Hands": People began signing up for our projects on August 11. Our big activity for the year, the "Rise Against Hunger" food packaging filled 37 of the 40 spots on the first day. We are now promoting our other activities.

There will be additional encouragement for people to financially support the \$3,400 cost of the food packaging activity. We have designated some church funds to help with part of this, participants will each pay \$10 and we will make an appeal in worship for additional donations.

Outreach for Hope Bike Ride on September 7: My thanks to Wendy Freeland who has agreed to help oversee a number of the aspects of the bike ride at Grace. I am working with the OFH planning committee to organize the meal for the day and recruit volunteers for the meal from Grace through our "God's Work Our Hands" sign up sheets. I am also encouraging all Grace bike riders to participate in the ride on the 7th.

Notes – Thrivent grant will be providing meal.

Confirmation Planning: I have sent detailed information on confirmation to the families of the in-coming seventh graders. I have also worked up the schedules for seventh and eighth grade and sent out a mailing to all Junior Youth Group (JYG) families about the October 18-19 retreat at Lutherdale Bible Camp.

Wednesday evening classes begin on September 11. The first ninth grade Sunday class will probably be held on September 22.

Vacation Bible School: Chantal Murack and I taught the fifth-grade class. We had fifteen students in our group.

JYG Lock-In: Erica and I organized and ran an over-night lock in for our middle school students on Friday, August 9. We wanted to have a JYG event over the summer to begin to encourage kids to get involved in events this fall. Thirteen teens attended. Kelsey Wilterdink also came for part of the evening as one of our adult leaders.



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Support for the Circle of Empowerment: I met with Meg Boren on August 6 to discuss Grace's support for the renal health education program she and the Circle of Empowerment are working to create. Meg asked for financial support to purchase a TV, DVD player and a stand for the units. These would be used to play educational videos on renal health for patients at the clinic. I have passed this request on to the Endowment Committee.

Boundary Waters and 2020 Mission Trip: We had a good trip from July 6-13. The weather was mostly pleasant, the groups had fun guides and good experiences. Erica and I have begun work on our 2020 high school mission trip. This will most likely be to North Carolina helping with hurricane recovery work. We'll begin promoting the trip in early fall. I plan to lead this trip.

PASTOR HEIDI'S REPORT:

Worship: I baptized Megan Noelle Doro.

Pastor Paul and I met with Pastor Lindsey Beukelman from All People's to plan the worship service there for August 25.

I did the funeral for Patty Gossenheimer (family member of several Grace families) and will be planning the funeral for Chase Mantel for August 30.

Ice Cream Social: I have been helping some of the Thursday worshippers with plans for an ice cream social for Thursday, August 29 after worship.

Churchwide Assembly: I spent a very long week as a delegate for our synod at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly. This meets every three years. We voted on and discussed many important matters. We kicked off the year of celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the ordination of women in the Lutheran Church. There was a decision to ordain Deacons (new name for former AImS and other non-clergy rostered people). This doesn't change anything for them except how they are received into service in the church (they don't become pastors or do sacraments- they are still called to "word and service" not "word and sacrament"). We adopted a social statement on sexism and justice, and voted to walk alongside immigrants by becoming a "sanctuary" denomination. This doesn't force anything illegal on any congregation- it is just a commitment to advocate for the immigrant and the stranger, which the Bible encourages us to do in many places. There is further explanation on this in Grace Notes. The Adult Literacy Center is a great way that we are already doing this at Grace.

Family Promise: We are trying to help Aaron Anding find a new co-leader for the Family Promise program. I have spoken to a couple people, but we haven't found a yes yet. If you have any ideas, please pass them on to me.

Women's Retreat: I am getting ready for the Women's Retreat up at Pine Lake in September. I have 3 of the 15 spots left as of now. The dates are September 21-22.

Reconciling in Christ: I set up the pulpit swap with Pastor Bill Beyer from Grace-Thiensville. It will be on Sunday, November 10. Pastor Bill will preach and then lead a forum on RIC. Pastor Paul and I will also each offer something this Fall (Bible background and education/questions). I am working on the letter to go out to the congregation, and I'll be gathering the group to write the welcome statement that we would adopt. If you would like to be on it, or have an idea for someone who should be considered, let me know. I'd like to talk at council about when we want to set the time for the vote.

Notes – forums to be held in Oct/Nov and look to vote in December – separate meeting/vote than with the annual meeting – would need quorum in order to vote – about 65 people. Motion for separate meeting by Sarah Brogni, Wendy Freeland 2nd – motion carried to set up 2nd meeting/vote.

DIRECTOR OF INVOLVEMENT: (Lisa Bernd)

Grace Emergency Plan: All of the emergency exit plans have been printed & laminated. They will be going into the classrooms next week. They are on bright orange paper so they will be easily visible. The emergency plan



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booklets are printed & will be laminated next week & will be hung when they are done. Everything will be in place before Sunday School begins.

Building Updates: I am getting bids for having 8 trees removed on the property. I have people doing bids now. I will try to get three bids for Sarah to look at.

Annual Inspections: We passed our annual inspections for fire alarm system annual inspection.

Window Cleaning: All of the windows were cleaned in the building. They look amazing! I will keep this in the budget as an annual part of our building maintenance.

VBS: I helped Katie prepare for VBS by making all of the volunteer name tags & daily schedules. I also made the volunteer thank you notes.

Sunday School: I promoted all of the student grades so they are ready for the fall education year. I am getting all of the confirmation updates made for Pastor Paul & preparing new confirmation sermon/worship note logs.

Office Closed: The church office will be closed on Monday, September 2.

Regular Things: I also continue doing the coffee hour dishes, weekly insert, Grace Notes, the Good News, responsibility emails, entering contributions, e-giving & the million things that come up daily.
Notes – next month will have Time & Talents sheets available to look at/review/amend. In January, will look to revisit cleaning staff or look to move to custodian.

Attendance Report

Attendance was discussed.

Committee Reports

CHRISTIAN CARE: (Melissa Schmidt)

As of right now we only have one person wanting to join, thus no new member reception planned.

FELLOWSHIP: (Wendy Freeland)

Working on Trivia Night and another Board Painting Night.

FINANCE: (Lynda Lalley)

Total income for the month was \$47,899.00 - (was \$48,727.74 in June) – very similar to June, up from last year - should average \$50,130 but down by \$2,231 for July.

Budget expenses for the month were just under an average month at \$53,398 (we should average \$53,523 or lower). The only budget expense to note for this month was a \$580.00 bill for inspection of the Fire Suppression/Sprinkler system. The WeEnergies bill for June hit in the beginning of July, but it dropped from \$1,342.77 in June to \$1,310.52 this month.

Total income for the year is currently behind total budget expenses by \$29,324 – last year we were behind by \$13,524.35.

Our budget cash went from -\$34,666.03 at the end of June to -\$40,144.96, dropping \$5,489.93 in July.

Arcelia also noted that we're getting close to dipping into the contingency funds (as expected). With the stewardship program gearing up, and offerings typically being stronger in the last couple of months of the year, we hope to be close to budget. The scrip program seems to be catching on as well, so there's a possibility that we won't use as much of the contingency.

OUTREACH: (Kelly Klug)

St. Ben's – still working on but made connection now.



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PROPERTY: (Sarah Brogni)

This summer we had to evaluate some of the trees on the property. We have 9 trees that need to come down this was identified by someone who has knowledge in this area. Lisa has been contacting companies but so far one has called back with a bid. Hopefully this will happen before the snow flies. Adan was kind enough to cut down one of the small trees and limbed up some of the trees that had branches that were too low for the lawn maintenance.

I talked to Jim's maintenance about more consistent billing. He agreed to bill us monthly from now on. I also discussed not having such a big pile of snow directly in the middle of the parking lot. We discussed putting the snow closest to the shed and dumpster area. He also mentioned that there were several cars parked overnight all scattered around the parking lot this winter. Which made for snow removal more challenging. We need to remember to park as close to the building as possible for any overnight events so that the plows can do their jobs.

Notes – will look to get a quote for mowing & snow removal before this winter.

WORSHIP: (Kelly Olson)

No report provided.

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY COMMITTEE: (Jen Jacobson)

Katie –

Sunday School

- Rally Sunday is September 8.
Begin with an all-family event. Registration will take place at Rally Sunday.
 - Other important dates
 - Oct 27: Bring a Friend Sunday & Bible Olympics
 - December 15: Christmas Program
 - Feb 16: All-Family Event (Learning about Communion)
 - May 17: Last day of Sunday School
 - Kids will also sing and play the bells in worship this spring
 - Sunday School staff meeting will take place on Wednesday, August 21
 - We have 21 volunteers who will be working with our 3K-5th graders this year.
 - Offering Update
 - This year's Sunday School offering will be given to the Crossways Capital Campaign
 - We will continue to collect pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House
 - Vacation Bible School
 - 150 students attended
 - We had 81 volunteers
 - Each VBS we lift up 4 service organizations and the kids bring in items for these groups each day. This year's service organizations were: Family Sharing, Family Promise, Portal, inc and Tailwaggers 911
 - I'm not sure on the dates for next year's VBS. There is some confusion as to when Grafton summer school will be this year (because of how dates fall) so I'm hoping to have it figured out by January.
- Notes: 60% nonmembers participants, 50/50 volunteers*
- Make a Splash for Jesus: July 21
 - We had over 115 people attend the worship service at the pool. Many more came to join us for the open swim
 - Donations from the event went to the Crossways Capital Campaign
 - Parenting in the Pews
 - We will be kicking off a Parenting in the Pews this fall with Rally Sunday. There will be a variety of activities/slight modifications to the worship services to ENCOURAGE kids to get involved in worship and not just sit quietly. We discussed many of these options with the worship planning committee.



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Notes – variety of options to participate in service geared towards multiple age groups. Prayer buddies with bookmarks of Sunday School children to be “adopted by” adults/families to pray for them for the year. Singing in church; encourage to sing the refrains.

- Bike Ride for Outreach for Hope
 - Erica and I have been working with Pastor Kelly from Christ and Living Hope Churches to assist with the new family-friendly ride that will be taking place as part of the day.

I will be working to advertise this new part of the event to families at Grace.

VBS comments - by opening the doors to non-members we get to showcase our church efforts to the community. One of the volunteers in the kitchen this year was a non-member their church home was under construction and I believe didn't have VBS, as we talked she said she was so impressed and that her kids really had fun. She commented that if she was Lutheran she would love to change churches, so this an example where we gain a good connection into the wider community without gaining a new member. Katie puts so much effort into VBS and it shows and pays off.

Other Business

Erica & Pastor Paul – high school mission trip planning for next year to North Carolina.

Habitat – looking to get groups together starting in September.

Closing Prayer: Pastor Paul

Next meeting: September 26th, 2019 at 7:20PM