



Council Minutes August 26th, 2021

IN ATTENDANCE:

*Katie Eippert	*Jodi Doro (Secretary)	*Brittany Lobner (Fellowship)
Mark Barber (Past President)	*Scott Nielsen (Treasurer)	Joe DelCamp (Property)
*James Newell (President)	Rachel Langer (Outreach)	*Lisa Bernd (Director of Involvement)
*Kirstin Albiero (President-Elect)	*Kelly Olson (Worship)	*Jen Jacobson (Christian Education)
		Melissa Schmidt (Christian Care)

(*) present at meeting

The meeting began at 7:32 P.M. with President James Newell presiding.

✓ Approval of the June 2021 minutes Kirstin motioned to approve, Brittany 2nd, all approved.

Pastor and DI Reports

PASTOR REPORT:

No reports

DIRECTOR OF INVOLVEMENT: (Lisa Bernd)

Building: Our five year sprinkler system inspection was done yesterday & we passed.

The building windows will be cleaned on September 21. They have not been cleaned since August of 2019 so they are going to shine when they are done!

We had a large branch come down during the storm earlier in the month. Adan Burgos cut it up for me & I contacted the village & they picked them up.

A BIG Thank You: Thank you to Erica, Katie & Arcelia for all of their help & their extra work that they had to do this summer while I was off healing. I was able to heal without worry knowing that they were filling in for me.

Catching Up: I have been catching up on all that I was not able to get done while I was off this summer. I got all of the students promoted in servant keeper & entered in all of the contributions. There are still a few things I need to finish but they will be done in the next few weeks.

Met Pastor Greg: The office staff had a nice meeting with Pastor Greg this week. I think he will be a great fit for our office.

Summer Hours End: Arcelia & I end the office summer hours the week of Labor Day. Our new office hours will be Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 3:00 pm.

Ice Cream Sunday's: The ice cream truck will be here Sunday, September 19 for Rally Sunday.

Counting: I have contacted all of our previous counters & almost all of them will be coming back in September to count. I need to fill two spots (one due to leaving our church & one chose not to return). I have one spot filled already so I am just looking for one more counter. If you have any suggestions for me to ask, please let me know.

Attendance Report

Attendance was discussed.

Committee Reports

CHRISTIAN CARE: (Melissa Schmidt)

No report provided

FELLOWSHIP: (Brittany Lobner)

Recap of past events:



Council Minutes August 26th, 2021

The Milwaukee River Clean Up crew met on June 28th with a small but mighty crew. July 11th was Splash with Jesus at the Grafton Pool. August 9th-13th was Vacation Bible School, and it was adventurous to say the least including a day missed due to the power outage. Special thanks to Katie and staff for all the hard work! August 15th was Pastor Paul's Retirement Celebration/VBS Service. It was a beautiful day under the tent!

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, September 12th-God's Work, Our Hands

With Pastor Paul's retirement, Fellowship has been put in charge of this project. Paul provided me with a jump drive containing all GWOH items in the past, and we had a sit-down meeting to discuss what needs to be done.

The only items pending are waiting to hear back on a grant for the pizza meal prior to departing and hearing back from Family Sharing on what they would like our volunteers to do. Posters have been hung advertising the event, and the sign ups for the various projects are on the tables before entering the sanctuary. There is also a paragraph in Grace Notes about this event. Shirts will be provided like in the past as well. We need sign ups for not only projects but also food items to go along with the Even Odds Pizza meal shared after the church service.

Rough Outline of Future Months:

Sunday, September 12th-God's Work, Our Hands

Sunday, September 19th-Rally Sunday

Late October-Trunk or Treat

November-Craft Fair

December-Birthday Party for Jesus/Movie Night (½ Fellowship Hall and ½ Sanctuary)?

January 2022-Bingo Night (½ in person, ½ virtual)?

Spring 2022-Potential Road Rally Scavenger Hunt

FINANCE: (Scott Nielsen)

July 2021 Financial Results

P&L

- Revenue was \$39k (\$11k unfavorable to budget)
- Expenses were \$37k (\$15k favorable to budget)
- Surplus of \$2k (\$4k favorable to budget)

Grace Lutheran Church Income Statement - July 2021

	July Actual	July Budget	Delta Budget	July '20 Actual	Delta Prior Year
Total Revenue	38,841	49,430	(10,589)	36,607	2,234
Expenses					
World Mission Subtotal	3,542	3,542	0	3,804	(262)
Rostered Ministry - Subtotal	12,043	20,639	(8,595)	19,823	(7,779)
Non-Rostered Staff Subtotal	10,495	11,292	(796)	10,217	278
Our Church Home Subtotal	8,804	14,050	(5,246)	13,855	(5,051)
Worship & Service Subtotal	2,321	2,464	(142)	2,037	284
Total Expenses	37,206	51,986	(14,781)	49,737	(12,531)
Surplus / (Deficit)	1,636	(2,556)	4,192	(13,130)	14,765
Amount To / (From) Contingency	1,636	(2,556)	4,192	(13,130)	14,765
Surplus / (Deficit) After Contingency	-	-	-	-	-



Council Minutes August 26th, 2021

Year-To-Date P&L

- Revenue was \$336k (\$10k unfavorable to budget)
- Expenses were \$347k (\$18k favorable to budget)
- Deficit of \$11k (\$8k favorable to budget)

Grace Lutheran Church Income Statement - July 2021

	July YTD Actual	July YTD Budget	Delta Budget	July '20 YTD Actual	Delta Prior Year
Total Revenue	335,866	346,011	(10,145)	346,669	(10,804)
Expenses					
World Mission Subtotal	26,292	26,292	0	28,379	(2,087)
Rostered Ministry - Subtotal	133,954	144,470	(10,517)	100,270	33,684
Non-Rostered Staff Subtotal	80,761	79,044	1,717	52,993	27,768
Our Church Home Subtotal	90,451	98,351	(7,900)	86,645	3,807
Worship & Service Subtotal	15,856	17,247	(1,391)	19,601	(3,745)
Total Expenses	347,314	365,404	(18,090)	287,888	59,426
Surplus / (Deficit)	(11,448)	(19,393)	7,945	58,782	(70,229)
Amount To / (From) Contingency Fund	(11,448)	(19,393)	7,945	58,782	(70,229)
Surplus / (Deficit) After Contingency Transfer	-	-	-	-	-

Balance Sheet

- Cash increased \$3k in the month to \$171k
 - Contingency Fund increased \$2k to \$105k
 - Project Funds increased \$1k to \$66k

Grace Lutheran Church Balance Sheet - July 2021

	July 2020 Starting Balance	July 2020 Ending Balance	Changes	
Assets				
Cornerstone Checking	80,162	82,885	2,723	
Cornerstone Money Market	88,220	88,231	11	
Total Cash	168,383	171,116	2,734	
Contingency Fund	103,391	105,027	1,636	July 2020 Operating Deficit
Project Funds	64,992	66,090	1,098	July 2020 Project Fund Change
Total Assets	168,383	171,116	2,734	
Liabilities				
Mortgage	1,756,957	1,753,092	(3,865)	
Total Liabilities	1,756,957	1,753,092	(3,865)	
			Principal Payment	3,865
			Interest Payment	4,831
				8,696



Council Minutes August 26th, 2021

OUTREACH: (Rachel Langer)

No report provided

PROPERTY: (Joe DelCamp)

No report provided

WORSHIP: (Kelly Olson)

Supply Preachers have been confirmed for the last two weeks in August and four weeks in September until our Interim Pastor Greg Van Dunk begins his PACT call at Grace.

August 22 & 29 (Thursday & Sunday)	Howard Vrankin
Sept 5 & 12 (Thursday & Sunday)	Dale Erickson (also God's Work, Our Hands)
Sept 19 (Thursday & Sunday) services (8:00 & 10:30)	Meg Boren (Rally Sunday – return to 2 Sunday)
Sept 26 (Thursday & Sunday)	Howard Vrankin

Interim Pastor Greg update—

Pastor Paul met with Pastor Van Dunk in July and reported the following to the WPT:

- Pastor Van Dunk will begin his PACT call on Monday, September 27th. His first Sunday will be October 3.
- At Pastor Greg's request, music leaders will pick all hymns and songs for all services until further notice.
- He also asked for preaching help one Sunday per month during the interim. Ruth Schmidt and Howard Vrankin will help supply. When needed, Kelly will post a request on the Synod listserv.
- Electronic files for special services throughout the year were provided by Pastor Paul.
- Pastor Paul created the stewardship theme that Pastor Greg will develop. Stewardship Sundays will be Nov 7 and Nov 14.

Worship Assistants needed!

Now that Pastor Paul has retired, the need for worship volunteers is even more important. Our Grace staff cannot do it all. We especially need Readers, Communion setup and clean up and Communion Assistants to assist our supply preachers to lead the services.

Indoor Worship and Mask Policy—services have been held inside since June 27th, with the exception of August 15th VBS Sunday & Pastor Paul's Farewell service. Until August 22nd, masks were optional for fully vaccinated people and encouraged for those not vaccinated. Due to the rise of Covid cases in our area and updated CDC recommendations, as of August 18th, church leaders made the decision to update the policy making masks required for all indoor worship attendees regardless of vaccine status.

Choir Scholarships—Zack and Eryn propose that the church support two college-age scholarship singers for the Jubilation Choir to provide consistent vocal leadership and support in the choir, which has been depleted a bit by the passing of 2 long-time members, several leaving for college and others with health concerns keeping them from participating. Currently, the need is for female singers to help relieve pressure on the women's sections. This is not uncommon for churches to hire scholarship students. Scholarship singers would be compensated for participation in all choir rehearsals and performances, plus special music twice in the term on a non-choir Sundays. Proposal was sent to James and Kirstin for consideration and recommendation for the 8/26 council meeting.



Council Minutes August 26th, 2021

Tech Grant Equipment Installation & Set up—new equipment (camera, microphones, etc) has been received and being installed/set up by John and Dustin. Currently making tweaks and adjustments to optimize.

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY COMMITTEE: (Jen Jacobson)

No report from committee

Katie:

Make a Splash for Jesus

- The event took place on July 11 at the Grafton pool.
- Thanks to our music leaders and skit performers for helping to make our outdoor worship possible. We had about 100 people join us.
- Unfortunately, the weather wasn't the greatest, but those who came enjoyed our camp-style worship and some fun swimming.
- We held a free-will offering for the Boundary Waters Canoe Camp at the event

VBS Recap

- We had 70 kids join us for VBS this summer. (We had 5 students drop off prior to VBS because of testing positive for COVID. They never attended VBS though, so we did not have any exposures during the week.)
- A HUGE thank you to all of our volunteers that helped make VBS possible!! We had 40 volunteers from 8th grade to adult. We had an additional 20 SITs (6th and 7th graders). An extra thank you to Jen Jacobson, Deb Donovan, Adan Burgos and Arcelia Schweisthal who let our stations. Erica is always my fearless sidekick helping lead the craft station, managing the SITs and assisting with a million other things before, during and after VBS. I cannot put into words how amazing our volunteer staff members were this year...they dealt with extra precautions due to the pandemic and ever-changing plans due to weather and lack of power. They were so flexible and motivated to make VBS happen no matter what we faced! They are a blessing to me and all of our Grace kids! If you see a VBS volunteer, please say thank you to them. They deserve any and all appreciation given to them!
- If you haven't seen it yet, I strongly encourage you to check out our VBS video recap [HERE](#).
- We did have to cancel VBS on Wednesday because we didn't have power. The tent also needed to be repaired, as all the poles facing 6th Avenue had been lifted off the ground in the strong storms and were resting about 3 feet from their stands (it was amazing the entire tent didn't collapse). Thanks to Adan Burgos donating a generator and folks bringing lanterns for the bathrooms, we were able to hold VBS on Thursday. Fortunately, the power came back on at about 11:15 on Thursday morning, so we had electricity on Friday!
- During the week, we collected donations for Family Sharing, All People's Church, All My Friends Playground and the Ronald McDonald House.
- We also had a successful outdoor picnic lunch on Friday afternoon for our students, staff and their families. It was wonderful to join in this fellowship activity together. We used a Thrivent grant to pay for the pizza.
- We also received two additional Thrivent grants to help cover supply costs and the sit-upons.
- As always, I am blown away by the support of the congregation. We had every donation request picked up and had the tent fully covered. Thank you, Grace!!

Sunday School



Council Minutes August 26th, 2021

- Rally Sunday is Sunday, September 19.
- Families are registering for Sunday School online this year. Although all Grace members are technically automatically registered each year, this process allows us to update any contact information, gather any details about allergies or special learning needs and obtain emergency contact information.
- I am still in need of several volunteers to help this year. After taking a year off, several of our volunteers had kids who aged out of the program or moved for college. So I'm in need of more volunteers than in a typical year.
- At this point, we are following building protocol and requiring all students to wear a mask during Education Hour. We are also adjusting a few other procedures so that kids are rotating a bit less and sticking with smaller groups. Certainly, we may adjust these requirements as the year proceeds.
- We are planning to have a Christmas Program this year (we start practicing for the music right away in the beginning of fall). One change we plan to make is that families will EITHER attend the 8 or 10:30 service (they will sign up for which one they want). This will allow for smaller groups singing and less family members in the worship center at one time. We are unsure if we will have the Birthday Party for Jesus between services.

Backpack Blessings

- We held our "traditional" backpack blessing during the VBS service again this year.
- We got a Thrivent grant to cover this.

Pastor Paul's Retirement Celebration

- The weather may have been challenging the week of VBS, but it was an absolutely perfect day on Sunday, August 15 for the VBS/Retirement Service!
- The tent was wonderful to have for VBS and this service and meal. Thank you council, for allowing us to make this request!
- Thank you to all the volunteers that helped before, during and after the event! It was wonderful to see so many folks lending a hand so we could celebrate Pastor Paul!

Other Business

Katie Recap:

VBS

Encourage to watch video, thank a volunteer, very supportive of all the obstacles that they had to overcome. 40 volunteers and 20 6-7th graders. Celebration lunch on Friday and VBS service on Sunday.

Retirement Service

So happy with all the additional helpers to help have this run smoothly

VBS for next year plan – considering only 100 students as they had much less issues/struggles with the larger groups in years past. This seems to be acceptable as having better experience with smaller is better than the larger numbers.

Sunday School – in person, Grace building policy mask protocols, down a few volunteers given age rolling out, college, others not comfortable yet. Pastor Greg agreed to allow all things keep going as planned/prior. Christmas service – families will choose which service to attend. Put Birthday Party for Jesus on hold for now, easy enough to pull together quickly. Might not be doing as much of large group. 1st Communion will be conducted in November for 5^h graders or any younger for those interested.

Refugees being sent to Ft. McCoy and plan to get ALC, Grace, and COE joint to run something.

Worship assistants – great concern for this



Council Minutes August 26th, 2021

Meg is concerned as she is comfortable with preaching but not leading the rest of the service. Will try to see if there are some assisting ministers to help with this. Lisa and Kelly will work to get lists together. Communion for now will be pre-filled cups given the new covid situations.

Fellowship – GWOH – one member to work on cleaning out basement & garage were looking to secure a dumpster. Joan is working to secure the dumpster.

Old Business

Staff Support Committee update – Howard Vrankin and Ed Ekert agreed – still looking to get a 3rd and then they would be charged with finding the 4th.

Fielding transition questions – someone from council to be there at church on Sundays; will also work with John Bernd to get a page on the website set up for updates. Also look to be present at a Thursday service

New Business

Choir Scholarship Proposal

Motion by James to not approve now and look into budget for next year, 2nd by Scott, all approved

Mask requirements

Communion – back to pre-filled for time being

Choir vaccination – will not come as a message from Council for requirement but up to discretion of directors

Welcoming Pastor Greg

Starting Sept 27th; first Sunday, Oct 3rd – welcome litany, cake between services; he will also be having meeting times around the first week services for “get to know you” discussions. Lisa will confirm if he will be preaching on Thursday Sept 30th. Also look to have milestone mini celebrations as the progress continues.

MET Coaching

Pastor Greg is not familiar with call process just because he’s not done it before. John Holm helps congregations in difficult interim periods. Pastor Greg would be interested in meeting with him to help him help us move along in this progress. \$500 would be the most for this – James made motion to approve this coaching, Kirstin 2nd, motion carried

Signer for checking

Scott Nielsen as Treasurer agreed to be signer on checking, James made motion to approve Scott as signer, Kirstin 2nd, motion carried.

Closing Prayer: James

Next meeting Sept 23rd – still without Pastor but then in Oct Pastor Greg will be present.