

## Grace Lutheran Church Council Minutes

January 22, 2015

### In Attendance:

\*Pastor Paul Bulgerin

Pastor Heidi Borkenhagen

\*Ruth Schmidt

John Conto

\*Mara Schwartz

\*Cindy Witt

\*Trudi Biefeld

\*Lisa Bernd

Roger Goecks

\*Melanie Arndt

Aimee Lempke

\*John Walch

Scott Donovan

\*Katie Eippert

The meeting began at 7:20p.m. With President Mara Schwartz presiding. Mara also opened the meeting with a prayer.

**DEVOTIONAL:** Mara Schwartz

### APPROVAL OF THE **DECEMBER 2014** MINUTES

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

**Concerns about All Peoples:** If you read the special "Grace Notes" sent out last Friday, along with my email to the council, you have the main facts about some members of our congregation having concerns with the actions of Pastor Steve Jerbi and All Peoples' role in the Dontre Hamilton protests in Milwaukee. I have spoken to a total of seven individuals or couples at church whom I have heard have concerns about this. Their concerns are varied as to the reasons and the level they are upset. I do not believe that this is a bigger issue in the congregation. The listening session we have scheduled for this Saturday, January 24, should be a helpful tool in allowing people to express their thoughts in a biblically-guided fashion.

**Building Program:** Members of the church staff and council executive are meeting with members of the Building Committee this evening (January 20) to discuss, at length, some of the aspects of the preliminary designs for the building from Groth Design. We will report back to the council on our discussions at Thursday's meeting.

**Nominating Committee:** My thanks to the members of the Nominating Committee who have successfully recruited candidates for the 2015 church council. The candidates are: Darlyne Holle for President- Elect, Jim Mulholland for Property, Sarah Gannaway for Christian Care and Laurie Gosselin for Fellowship.

My thanks also go to our out-going council members, John Conto, Cindy Witt and Roger Goecks. They have all served the church and our Lord with dedication and commitment.

**Church Play:** We've had three rehearsals so far for the March 8 play, "The Quest for the Lost Treasure of the Heart". We have a lot of good cast members including several remarkable children who are part of the play for the first time.

**Adult Mission Trip:** I am looking at possible sites for a mission trip this summer. I've also asked those who went on the 2012 trip to do the same thing so we can make a decision and begin to publicize the trip and recruit people to go on it. I am looking at August for the trip.

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

**Worship:** I thought our Christmas Services turned out wonderfully. Thanks to all the musicians and the office staff for their extra hard work for these special events. I loved the Choir Cantata, the Children's pageant and thought Eryn did a fantastic job with the kids singing and bells.

I baptized two babies, Luke Bechtel and Rose Kolbach, at the Christmas Hymn Service on December 29.

It was so wonderful to have Courtney Bernd, Grace college student, preach on January 4<sup>th</sup>. She did a fantastic job!

**High School Youth Group:** We've started our new format (half the class time on devotions/Bible Study, half the class time playing a game). We'll also be doing a social event on the first Sunday of the month (pizza & nerf guns, Sky Zone, laser tag, etc.). It seems like it's being well-received so far. The youth leaders have all been doing an amazing job and putting in lots of time!

**Lydia Circle:** The ladies volunteered to clean the kitchen this month- sorting through things, deep cleaning, emptying the fridge/freezer. Please encourage your groups not to leave food in the kitchen unless there is a specific group who knows about it and will use it within the week. We are trying a Potato Bar for our Lenten Meal.

**Women's Book Group:** The women's book groups are off to a wonderful start! Lisa and I each had over 15 people in our groups, with more joining next month. I am so glad there are so many women at Grace who are committed to growing in faith and fellowship together!

**FAITH5 & Lent Plans:** The "Holding Your Family Together" Class began on January 18 and goes through February 22. I sent postcards with info to the Sunday School Families to promote it. The whole congregation will be invited to participate in FAITH5 during Lent. I'm putting together a devotional program for the congregation so that it's easy for them to try it. There will be a focus on animal Bible stories for this and for our Lent Services. Everyone can take a bank (either a piggy or a barn) and put their coins in at the end of the day, and there will be a noisy offering on Easter. The money will go to buy animals through ELCA World Hunger.

**All People's:** I echo what Pastor Paul said about All People's. While we may not always agree, we are united in Christ. I am constantly amazed at all the wonderful things that are going on there, and very proud that Grace is a part of helping that happen. I commend Jim Scott and Dick Duncombe for having a conversation with Pastor Steve. Open communication is always the best course. Jesus knew what he was talking about! I am always blessed by those tough conversations with those who see things differently, even though they can be hard. I hope that we can do more work together to understand the different circumstances of both our congregations, and I am willing to help however I can to bring us closer. I will work to get more info out about what's going on at APC, and maybe we could do a pulpit exchange and/or worship together again this summer.

**Sabbatical:** I am due for a sabbatical this year, and am beginning to form plans. I am currently looking at a "Family & Faith" focus. I'm hoping to find some conferences on family ministry and also take some trips to visit family who live far away that I don't normally have an opportunity to see. I'd like to interview my family about their faith as well, and pass on a format for Grace people to use to talk to their families about their faith. I am planning to take it from Mid-June to Mid-August.

**Thanks!:** A big thank you to our outgoing council members: Roger Goecks, John Conto, & Cindy Witt. You have all done a great job of enriching the life of our congregation in many ways. We would not be where we are without leaders like you!

#### **AIM RUTH'S REPORT:**

Heartfelt thanks to John Conto, Roger Goecks and Cindy Witt for your years of service on the council. Not only have I appreciated all you've done for Grace; I'm so glad to have had this chance to get to know each of you better. I pray you will take a deserved rest (short) and then find new ways to share your gifts with our church family. May blessings abound in your life.

Thanks too, Mara, for serving this year as Council President. Your business and spiritual leadership skills combined so well for this position. Blessings as you move to Past-President.

Welcome to those who have answered 'yes' to the call as new council leaders. I look forward to learning from and sharing with each of you.

I have nothing new to report this month.

#### **DIRECTOR OF INVOLVMENT:**

**Annual Report:** The Annual Report is done & out for people to look over before the Annual Meeting.

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration:** Our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year has begun! It is so exciting to know Grace has been serving our community for so many years. Our anniversary group has been working hard to plan our 50<sup>th</sup> year. We are working on the next three months of events at our meeting on Wednesday evening.

**Women's Book Study:** I am leading the women's book study on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday evening of the month. We had our first meeting last week & had a great time. I have 15 women in my group & we will be reading the book Carry On Warrior Thoughts on Life Unarmed by Glennon Doyle Melton. It is the same book that Pastor Heidi's book study group is reading. I am looking forward to delving into the book with my group over the next few months.

**E-Giving:** I have updated the e-giving for the year. I had a few more people sign up to be e-givers. I wish more people would do it.

**New Group at Grace:** I am starting a new group at Grace called ITM or In The Middle for those too old to be in TNT but too young to be in RNT. I have noticed all the great friendships that those groups have formed & was looking for that for myself. I started talking to some people in a like situation & we thought this would be fun. We will be having our first event on February 27.

January 2 of this year started my 8<sup>th</sup> year working at Grace. I truly feel blessed to work here & to work with the people I work with each day. These 8 years have really flown by.

#### **FELLOWSHIP:**

My committee (Mari Goecks, Jackie Dhein and Alissa Burgos) has all stepped down and we will be going out for a celebratory dinner on February 6<sup>th</sup>! I am very thankful and blessed to have had them as members during my term. They all worked very hard and were always there to help. It was fun. Laurie Gosselin has accepted the position of Fellowship Committee Chairperson and I have contacted her with information about what the role entails. I thank her and wish her the best!

During this transition of leadership, I have been handling the coordination of the Lenten meals, which includes contacting, scheduling and advertising for sponsoring groups about their Lenten meals in February and March. Lenten meals are made and served by church groups at 6 p.m. before the Lenten service each Wednesday in Lent, starting on February 18<sup>th</sup>. These groups use this as a fundraising opportunity to help support their work and activities. Advertising will start at the beginning of February, including a sign-up poster on the bulletin board.

#### **PROPERTY:**

A new exit egress pathway light was purchased and is to be installed in the Sanctuary. The Fire Inspector

found the unit was not working.

A light in the Sanctuary is out and the problem seems to be in the fixture itself, This will have to be looked at to determine if the fixture itself needs to be replaced.

### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:**

- Sunday School
  - Christmas Program went well
    - Not a lot of kids/parents showed up for practice
  - Baby Shower for Jesus also went well
    - Collected over one pack-n-play full of items for Advocates
    - Food lines were a little long and in the way
- High School Youth Group
  - Changing name to HYPE
    - Will be having an activity the first Sunday of each month
    - First activity on Feb 1 at church: Kick-Off Party
  - Chili Lunch with Annual Meeting
- Junior Youth Group & KFC
  - JYG had lock-in
  - KFC held an Egyptian Christmas event and will go sledding in Feb

### **WORSHIP: No Report**

### **OUTREACH:**

December's project was the collection of Bingo type prizes for Lasata. Once again the members of Grace stepped up and I delivered one LARGE box of prizes to Lasata.

7 members helped serve a meal at St. Ben's on Jan 13<sup>th</sup>. 295 people including 11 children were served that evening. Our next opportunity to go to St. Ben's is in April.

Work is being done for 8<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation class to APC's Kids Working to Succeed program on Feb 21<sup>st</sup>. Work is also in progress for the Outreach Lenten Meal on Feb 25<sup>th</sup>. APC will be attending the service and has offered to bring the desserts for the meal.

I look forward to helping the 50<sup>th</sup> Ann Committee with their service projects. Outreach will be assembling an Easter Meal to be delivered to APC. The congregation will be able to purchase meal tickets and I will be purchasing the food. The goal is to have 50 meals assembled. Each meal will provide 1-2 1# canned hams, box of hash browns or other sort of potato, 2 cans of vegetables, applesauce, and some sort of dessert mix, i.e. cake and frosting, brownie or pudding enough for a family of 4.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT:**

We ended the year with \$583 of revenue more than expenses and we put that into a contingency fund. We were short of budget by \$14,317. There is a large discrepancy between the expenses and budget due to a few things. 1) Giving was approximately \$15,000 less than the budget. 2) Pastor Heidi going 3/4 time which ended up being about a \$9,400 decrease. 3) Worship and services came in as a whole about \$5,000 under budget which also made a big difference.

Capital campaign fund balance is currently at \$199,845.

### **VPT: No Report**

### **Business Old & New:**

- Building Project

- All People's Discussion on Saturday
- Review for Annual Meeting

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Pastor Paul