



Council Minutes October 24th, 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 7:25 P.M. with President Mike Moran presiding.

Reflection led by Mike Moran

- ✓ Approval of meeting agenda
- ✓ Approval of the September 2019 minutes, Sarah motioned, Kelly Olson 2nd, carried

Pastors and DI Reports

PASTOR PAUL'S REPORT:

Stewardship Update: We have completed the three Sundays where we held up our "Believe in Grace" theme. Thanks to Adan Burgos, we have also created the three short videos which were sent out to the congregation summarizing the themes of the sermons for those who were not here to hear them. The commitment packets which were not picked up on Sunday, October 20 are going to be mailed out this week. Members are asked to start returning them on Sunday, October 27.

The next step will be to contact members who have not returned their commitment cards by Sunday, November 3. The members of the stewardship team will help with some of these calls. *If members of the council are also willing to make a few calls that would be appreciated. A short phone script will be provided for all phoning volunteers.*

I will keep the council updated on the pledges as they come in.

My thanks again to the stewardship team for all their work with this fall's program.

Worship Attendance: After two Sundays, on September 29 and October 6, with very low attendance for the week, around 200-230 people here, attendance been a lot better the last two weeks. We had 290 people in worship on October 13 and about 270 this past weekend.

I would like the council to make increasing weekly worship attendance one of our main congregational goals for 2020. Personally, I would like to see us with about 300 people in worship each week. We have taken some initial steps to encourage parents, who bring their children to Sunday School but who don't stay for worship, to do so.

This will be a good topic for us to discuss at our council mini-retreat early next year.

Nicaragua Mission Trip: It looks as if we will have enough people to send another delegation to Nicaragua in early 2020. Karen, Samantha and I are planning to be part of this group. I will use my continuing education time for this trip.

Pulpit Exchange: On Sunday, November 10, Pastor Bill Beyer from Grace Lutheran in Thiensville will be the guest preacher at Grace. He will also lead the adult forum that day. I will preach at Grace in Thiensville that day.

Reconciling in Christ Sessions: I am going to lead the RIC sessions at the adult forum on Sundays, November 3 and 17. At the first session I will take people through what the Bible does and does not say about same-sex sexual relationship. At the second we will discuss topics where the church has



Council Minutes October 24th, 2019

changed its stance, in spite of biblical verses to the contrary, and why the church has done this. This topic will help us look at how we can biblically examine the issues involved with RIC.

Operation Christmas Child: We had one member raise concerns about participating in Operation Christmas Child due to stances from Franklin Graham about sexual issues and also because it only offers opportunities to package gifts for boys or girls. I invited this member to talk with me about these concerns, but the member did not reply. We are going ahead with Operation Christmas Child, but, after talking with Terry Crevensten, who heads it up at Grace, we are informing members that if they want to package a box that is acceptable to boys or girls, they can do this.

Junior Youth Group Retreat: On October 18-19 we had twelve middle school students attend the discipleship retreat at Lutherdale Bible Camp near Elkhorn. This was the first retreat we have had open to all middle school students and not just to members of a specific class. It went well and I plan to continue it. My thanks to Jessica Korrison who was the female chaperone.

New Members: We are looking at having sessions for a group of new members in December.

Service of Remembrance: I am leading this service at 7:00 p.m. on All Saints Day, Sunday, November 3. Thanks to John Bernd who is updating the video we share with pictures of loved ones who have died.

PASTOR HEIDI'S REPORT:

Worship: I baptized Ethan Ebbert, and am working on the Reformation, Time and Talents, and Thanksgiving Eve services.

I am planning to do another special service on Thursday, December 12. I will work with a volunteer to make a meal and I'll create a special service to do out in the Gathering Area. Last year when I did this it was very well received.

Outreach: All People's donations continue. Steve Janssen is helping to deliver them as he works nearby. I will bring them down when I can, but can't make weekly or bi-weekly trips. I asked them if there was a need for anything there for Christmas, and I'm waiting to hear back.

First Communion: I have 19 kids signed up now, if all the 5th graders who haven't taken the class yet come. We will have classes for 2nd Grade & up on November 3 & 10. I haven't had anyone with kids younger than 2nd grade interested yet. I will also meet with every child personally, as usual, to make sure they all understand what communion is and why it is important. First Communion dates will be Thanksgiving Eve or December 1.

Women's Retreat: The retreat went well and all 14 ladies enjoyed our time together at Pine Lake. We had two new/prospective members go along, which was nice to see them getting involved.

Fall Casserole Supper: It was a good night of fellowship and food. We will talk at Lydia Circle this week about setting a date for the spring casserole supper.

Christmas Sing-a-long: Publicity is starting to go out for this event on December 18.

We are STILL looking for a portable keyboard that has a good speaker to bring. Eryn isn't able to bring the one she has used for the past few years, and Vince's is too heavy for us to transport (Plus we worry about damaging it).



Council Minutes October 24th, 2019

Change or Die Conference: This was a very worthwhile event, with great speakers. You will eventually be able to watch videos of their talks on YouTube. This could be a good thing to do at a council retreat or during an Adult Forum sometime. I would like to share a couple take-aways from the conference during the council meeting.

Reconciling in Christ: Our first session was well-attended. Some good questions were asked. I will be coordinating Pastor Bill's visit on November 10 and encourage you all to attend his Adult Forum on at 9:15.

I will be attending the RIC Summit the synod is hosting on November 2, and in the letter to the congregation I invited anyone who is interested to come along.

I'm putting together the group to write the statement and hoping we will have it done by early December.

Nominating Committee: I met with the group on Sunday, October 13. We discussed names and are on the first round of asking.

Notes: Christmas Wish List for Church is started; Ed & Linda Borkenhagen will spearhead the creation of this. Get list to Pastor Heidi of any additional ideas by 10.31.19. Attendance letter sent out around this time last year, looking to do this again.

DIRECTOR OF INVOLVEMENT: (Lisa Bernd)

Grace Emergency Plan: All of the emergency information plans are hanging throughout the building. We put them in visible areas so everyone would be able to access them.

Stewardship Packets: Most of my month was spend working on Stewardship. I sent out a congregational mailing on September 23. Then I prepared an envelope for everyone in the congregation with a personalized letter & pledge card. Each envelope also got an e-giving form, two letters & a brochure. I printed & folded for days on end. At one point I ran a sweat shop during our staff meeting to help with all the folding. Everyone's packet that wasn't picked up on Sunday will be mailed out this week.

Building Updates:

Kelly Arndt cleaned the ceiling area & repainted in the worship center. Hopefully this fixes the issue. The carpet was cleaned in Fellowship Hall. It looks great!

After the large amount of rain we had this month, there were a few spots on the roof that leaked. Paul Crandall came out & fixed them so we shouldn't have any other issues.

The dishwasher was not heating correctly. I did have someone come out & fix it.

The Village has decided to go forward with making Grace the new home for voting in Grafton!! They will be presenting the information at the November 4th meeting. We should know if we are approved by the end of November. I will keep everyone posted on what is happening.

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.

Attendance Report

Attendance was discussed.



Council Minutes October 24th, 2019

Committee Reports

CHRISTIAN CARE: (Melissa Schmidt)

New welcome packets will be made.

FELLOWSHIP: (Wendy Freeland)

No report provided.

FINANCE: (Lynda Lalley)

Total income for the month was \$54,368 – (was \$44,824 in August) – up from last month and last year. Budget Expenses for the month of \$54,313 were under by \$790. The WeEnergies bill for August (\$1,647.29) also posted the checking account in the beginning of month and September bill (\$1,577.77) posted as well.

Total income for the year is currently behind total budget expenses by \$32,630, which is a decrease from last month.

Our budget cash went from -\$43,506.67 at the end of August to -\$43,450.88, it actually increased by \$55.79 in September. That is great, it may not be a lot but wonderful to see.

So far this year we have transferred \$10,000 from contingency in August and another \$10,000 was transferred October 3rd to prevent overdrawing. Last year we did make a \$20,000 transfer in July, with the way bills and auto deposits hit the account I need to make sure there is a balance of at least \$10,000 in the checking by the first of every month. The checking account balance as of October 2nd was \$358.31 which required me to transfer \$10,000 on October 3rd.

OUTREACH: (Kelly Klug)

No report provided.

PROPERTY: (Sarah Brogni)

At this time, I have narrowed down the choices to 2 outdoor nativity scenes. Both are very similar; one is in color the other is white. They are made with Teak so it can handle weather. I will work with Lisa to order one. Total cost is around \$350 at the most. That would leave about \$1650 left in the budget. I did talk to Jim Scott who has been putting up the nativity scene for a long time, he was happy to hear we were going to replace it with something smaller. Any suggestions on what to do with the old stuff let me know. Otherwise I think it will all go into the dumpster.

This Saturday a few of us will be repairing the wall of the inner courtyard that was damaged from water this spring. I used my Thrivent Action plan to pay for the supplies.

Within the next week, I will contact those who have done snow removal in the past to see if they are still interested in doing it again this season. Then, when Lisa gets the time and talents, hopefully we can get a few more people to help.

Notes: Found new nativity scene. Looking at colored pieces of Mary, Joseph, & Baby Jesus; additional purchase of three wisemen and two angels – still well within budget. Church will see if anyone wants the old scene.

WORSHIP: (Kelly Olson)

No report provided

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY COMMITTEE: (Jen Jacobson)

Katie

Sunday School

Upcoming Important Dates:

- Oct 20: Thrivent leading a stewardship lesson for kids and one for parents
 - Chris Beloin organizing. Darlyne Holle and Steven Beloin teaching the 1st-5th graders. Chris will be working with parents.
- Oct 27: Bring a Friend Sunday & Bible Olympics
- Nov 3: Kids can join Heidi in front of church to help lead a song
- December 15: Christmas Program



Council Minutes October 24th, 2019

- Feb 16: All-Family Event (Learning about Communion)
- May 17: Last day of Sunday School

Parenting in the Pews

- Over 60 kids submitted Worship Thoughts in September.
- Heidi wrote up some responses to the questions that the kids wrote on their sheets. The responses were listed in the bulletin and Grace Notes.
- Blue worship order sheets are laminated and in the pews. A huge thank you to Jen Jacobson for spearheading this great idea! I have seen families using them.
- The pastors and music leaders continue to think of ways to have the kids actively participate or listen for things in worship.

Christmas Program

- Erica and I have been working on finalizing the Christmas Program and determining who will have speaking roles. We have actors and speakers from 3rd grade through high school helping to lead worship that day.

Birthday Party for Jesus

- Will be held between services on Dec 15 (day of the Christmas Program)
- Working to get a Thrivent grant to cover this

Christmas Postcards

- Working with James Newell to design our postcards for this year.
- Working to get Thrivent grant to sponsor these

Christmas Eve Children's Worship

- Decided to do a book service again.

Advent Movie Night—Dec 6

- We're going to make the December movie an annual showing of "The Star." Christmas is the season of traditions, and we all have favorite movies we always "have" to watch at Christmas. We're hoping this will be a tradition folks look forward to at Grace, and invite a friend, family member, grandchild, etc to join them! The movie is great for adults as well as kids.
- Working on getting a Thrivent grant to cover the cost of the meal before the movie

Adding committee members

- We would like to add a few additional committee members in January.

Nursery

- We are not going to staff the nursery come January. We had consistent volunteer staff coverage throughout the year last year, and we still did not see an increase in use by families. Families are still welcome to use the nursery during worship, but we will not have a volunteer there.
- If we see an increase in the number of people with young children looking for the nursery, we can reassess at that time.

Erica

HYPE:

- October 20th: Road Rally – 9 youth attended
- Pat had a discussion with HYPE youth attending Education hour to decide what they would like to do during education hour. They created a plan for moving forward.
- HYPE will be maintaining the Little Library/Little Pantry outside of Grace. They are in the process of developing a plan.
- HYPE will be hosting a Trunk for Trunk or Treat



Council Minutes October 24th, 2019

- Mission trip has been scheduled. We will be going to Kure Beach, NC from July 17-July 15, 2020. We have space for 14 kids and 4 adults
- Next Events:
 - Craft Fair – November 9th
 - HYPE Video Game Night – November 15th

JYG:

- Sept. 20th: Movie Night- We watched “Breakthrough”
- October 18-19th: JYG Retreat to Lutherdale
- We completed a painting project in the JYG room last spring. Make sure you go check it out. Most of the work was done by JYG youth with help from Darlyne Holle and Kate Peterman. We will be doing some touch up work soon.
- Next Events:
 - Craft Fair on Nov. 9th
 - JYG Thanksgiving – November 24th
 - Lasata Shopping - December 1st

KFC:

- September 22: KFC Meeting – Game Day Theme
- October 20: KFC Meeting – Big Art Theme
- Next Events:
 - November 17: Thanksgiving Turkey Trivia Team Challenge

Craft Fair Update:

- JYG and HYPE will be selling food again this year at the Craft Fair on Nov. 9
- Sign-up Genius has been distributed. Most spots are filled.
- Thrivent Action Team was applied for to cover the cost of the food.
- Menu will be similar to last year, including Grace’s Famous Potato soup!

Parent Fellowship Hour:

- On hold for right now

Projects:

- Grace is going to host a workshop for parents that will discuss stress and anxiety in children. We have quite a few youth at Grace that have severe anxiety issues.
- Quake 2020 – I am going to start talking to the youth to see if anyone would be interested in attending Quake in Feb. 2020
- We completed a painting project in the JYG room last spring. Make sure you go check it out. Most of the work was done by JYG youth with help from Darlyne Holle and Kate Peterman
- I am hoping to come up with a mural for the HYPE room. Currently looking for some options.
- Helping to organize Christmas Program with Katie

Jen

We met on October 21st, Katie Eippert, Sarah Newell, and myself were all in attendance, and Erica provided a report. We discussed the upcoming events, reviewed some past events, and talked about changes to staffing the nursery.

- Upcoming Events
 - Bring a Friend to Sunday School for Bible Olympics on October 27th – Katie will run this event like in past years, it coincides with having friends stay after the 10:30am Worship for Trunk or Treat.



Council Minutes October 24th, 2019

- Trunk or Treat on October 27th. Lunch at 11:30am and Trunk or treating with games starting at 12pm. We received a Thrivent Grant to help with the cost of lunch. As of Monday we have 107 people signed up attend
- Craft Fair is November 9th.
- Christmas Program on December 15th. Katie and Erica are writing in a few short/Group lines to accommodate all the children interested in speaking parts.
- Past Events
 - This past Sunday the Sunday School Children participated in a stewardship focused class while parents were welcome to participate in a discussion, lead by Chris Beloin about the values regarding money we want to teach our children and how we are doing it. The older children received a nice book with zip pockets in it to help them learn how to manage their money while the younger children received a divided piggy bank to help them divide their money for sharing, spending and saving. There were about 13 parents that participated in Chris' discussion.
 - Older Youth updates from Erica
 - JYG retreat had 12 kids in attendance
 - HYPE had their Road Rally
 - KFC is going strong.
- Nursery staffing was discussed between the staff and the group meeting on Monday agrees with the change of no staffing the nursery come January.
 - During the 2018-2019 program year we had the nursery regularly staffed and publicized, what we have found was there still very little use of the nursery, with only 3-4 regulars. We decided not to staff the nursery during the summer. This fall most the regulars has phased out of the nursery, we have also seen an decrease in volunteers to staff the nursery (as well as in other areas during worship) it was suggested with the low use and need of volunteers for other worship activities it might be best to not staff the nursery come January.

Next Meeting will be November 18th.

Other Business

John Bernd emailed headphones are almost done for, looking to see if these can be purchased prior to holiday season to make sure we don't have issues during those times. \$110 each – looking to get the lapel clips over the headsets. Could be taken from the worship budget.

November 21st next meeting 7:20; December 19th following due to holidays

Closing Prayer: Pastor Heidi