



Council Minutes September 26th, 2019

IN ATTENDANCE:

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| *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 Melissa Schmidt

- ✓ Approval of meeting agenda; motion by Pastor Paul.
- ✓ Approval of the August 2019 minutes; motion by Sarah, 2nd by Wendy with minimal adjustments.

Pastors and DI Reports

PASTOR PAUL'S REPORT:

Stewardship Planning: Our planning team continues with its work for the October stewardship program. We will soon finalize the brochure which will be included in the stewardship packets that are going out on October 20.

Howard Vrankin and I are working with Adan Burgos to create three short videos highlighting the three stewardship sermons on October 6, 13 and 20. These will be sent out to the congregation via email, and posted on the Grace website, the Mondays after the sermons are preached. Our goal with this is to get the basic stewardship sermon message out to all members, especially those who were not in worship that week.

The initial stewardship letter is being mailed the week of September 22.

Pastor Heidi and I will begin work on the individual letters to be included in all the stewardship packets. One of our big goals is to encourage people, who kept their giving the same this year, to make a generous increase next year.

Bill and Kathy Bahrke, who made a pledge at the annual meeting to give an additional \$1,000 this year, made that donation this week. I am going to ask Bill to talk about this in my sermon on October 20 and encourage other Grace members to be equally as generous in 2020.

“Reconciling in Christ”: Pastor Heidi and I have drafted a letter to the about the process involved in becoming a RIC congregation and what we are going to do to help members prepare to make an informed decision.

On Tuesday, September 24, I am attending a synod workshop on transgender issues to become better aware of how we can help our families at Grace who have transgender teens.

Discussion – Pastor Paul will be doing 2 sessions and will be talking on the biblical text. November 10th “Pastor Swap” with church in Theisenville.

“God’s Work Our Hands”: Even though the heavy rain washed out the river clean up, things still went well. We had about 80 Grace members involved in our activities for the day. The “Rise Against Hunger” food packing went very well with 10,160 meals packaged. My thanks to Erica Dimmett for organizing and running this.

We are considering our options for next year. My personal thought is to not have “God’s Work Our Hands” in September because it is a lot of work organizing it and recruiting volunteers so early in the fall, just as people are coming back from the summer mindset.

We are thinking of having a Grace day of service, not tied into the ELCA schedule for “God’s Work Our Hands”, at a time when we can really organize and promote it. We want to do the food packing again, but next time invite other churches and organizations to join us, encourage volunteers to do fund-raising to help with the cost and make it a bigger event.

Outreach for Hope Bike Ride: Along with Wendy Freeland, I organized Grace’s participation as the host site for the ride and meal. About 80 riders participated in the Ozaukee County ride and, as of September 15, they had raised nearly \$21,000 in pledges. The goal for the Ozaukee ride was \$22,000. Fund-raising continues until September 30.

I plan to be part of the planning team next year and continue to offer Grace as the host site for the ride.



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Nominating Committee: I am going to convene the group on Sunday, October 6, to begin the work of recruiting council members for 2021. At our council meeting we need to confirm which positions will need to be filled. President Elect, Treasurer, Christian Care, and Outreach – terms to be filled.

JYG Retreat: Jessica Korrison and I will be leading the discipleship retreat for our middle school students at Lutherdale Bible Camp on October 18-19.

Cork Pull: I am organizing a group to run this again at the November 9 Craft Fair to raise money for the 2021 adult mission trip.

Scrip Program: Katie Eippert and I met with Chantal Murack on September 11 to talk about ways to better promote Scrip. Chantal and I will lead the adult forum on October 13 to talk about Scrip. The stewardship packets will also have information about Scrip to encourage further participation. I think that if we do this right, we can raise a substantial amount to help our congregation.

Christmas Gifts to Grace: The staff is discussing advertising to members that, if they are looking to give Christmas gifts, Grace has some things they could give as gifts. Our initial list includes new head-pieces for our worship microphones, more white-board carts, paying to have areas of carpet cleaned, new chair carts, etc. We'll work on this and get information out to the congregation.

PASTOR HEIDI'S REPORT:

Worship: We had a good turnout for All People's. I counted about 50 Grace people. Thanks to all who have come together in helping the "Parenting in the Pews" get off the ground. It has been a true team effort across many groups and staff!

Education: Lydia Circle resumes our meetings this month, studying women of the Bible. HYPE has also begun weekly classes.

Outreach: All People's asked on Facebook for donations of dish soap and laundry detergent for their Food Pantry. I put a quick call out for that. We will see how much we get. The staff mentioned possibly doing an "item of the week." I encouraged that idea and a little more lead time if possible. I can take the food down to All People's next week on my way to do a shut-in visit.

First Communion: I have begun publicizing this in the congregation. We will have classes for 2nd Grade & up on November 3 & 10. If we have younger kids interested, we will schedule the class according to when it works for those families. 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: There are 14 of us going on the retreat to Pine Lake this weekend.

Fall Casserole Supper: This will be held on Monday, October 14. The date has been publicized and plans are underway.

Alzheimer's Walk: I am walking with the Grace team in the Walk to End Alzheimers on Saturday, October 6. My dad suffers from this horrid disease, and I know this has touched many of your lives as well. My thanks to Trudi Biefeld for coordinating this group. I am very thankful to all who have donated already from Grace, and I would appreciate any donations you would like to give.

Christmas Sing-a-long: We are already reserved for Wednesday, December 18 at the Water Street Brewery. We will have a limited menu for our big group, like we did last year and like the do for all big parties. We are also adding some fun new components this year, possibly encouraging people to wear "Ugly" sweaters or having a "Christmas Spirit" Award. We will ask people to bring donations of some sort- possibly for Family Promise needs, or other homeless ministries. If you have any ideas for this, please share them with me.



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We are 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).

Change or Die Conference: I am on the planning committee for this event, sponsored by the Siebert Lutheran Foundation. It will be held on Thursday, October 10. This year's theme is "Reimagine Ministry" and the conference is free and open to anyone. You can find out more here:

<https://www.siebertfoundation.org/changeordie> If you are interested, please come!

Reconciling in Christ: The letter is almost ready to go out. We will send it next week. The date we are looking at for the vote is January 12- how does that work for you? Unless I hear otherwise, that is the date we will put in the letter. That gives us two weeks between the vote meeting and the Annual meeting.

Notes: Pastor Heidi is looking to change breakdown of housing expenses. This is no adjustment to total compensation. Sarah motion to approve, Mike 2nd – motion carried.

DIRECTOR OF INVOLVEMENT: (Lisa Bernd)

Grace Emergency Plan: All of the emergency exit plans are hanging in every room. The emergency plans are all printed & laminated. Putting them together was a little different than what I thought so they will be done next week.

Building Updates: We got bids for tree removal. They were a lot higher than I thought. We had a few members that volunteered & removed some of the smaller trees for us! They are still working on removing a few more for us. All of their hard work saved us a lot of money. There will still be some larger trees that we still need to have removed but we can figure that out this spring. Thank you to Adan Burgos, Pat Murack & Matt Kolbach for their help.

I met with Pure Mechanical again on how to get more air flow in the music room. They had some suggestions & will try them at our biannual maintenance in October.

I got a bid to have the carpet cleaned in Fellowship Hall. They will be cleaning it in October. It is much needed. The dishwasher is not heating correctly. I spent about 4 hours trying to find a new company to fix it since the company we used is very expensive. I could not find anyone to that fixed commercial dishwashers (despite what Google said). I did end up having to call the original company. They will be here on Tuesday, September 24.

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 updated & printed all of the Sunday School attendance lists & updated all of the names tags.

Confirmation: I updated all of the Worship & Sermon Notes charts & made the attendance sheets for the confirmation classes.

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.

Committee Reports

CHRISTIAN CARE: (Melissa Schmidt)

No report provided

FELLOWSHIP: (Wendy Freeland)

No report provided

FINANCE: (Lynda Lalley)



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Total income for the month was \$44,823.85 -- \$10,000 of that was from contingency, true number is \$34,823.85 – (was \$47,899 in July) – low compared to last year's numbers. One thing to take into consideration was cancelling service to go to All People's last month. With that said we are offerings are behind by \$19,147.86 (without considering the \$10,000 from contingency) for the year.

Budget expenses for the month were \$48,186, under by \$5,337. One item to note is that August, WeEnergies bill did not hit our account until early this month, so there will be 2 months payment in September.

Total income for the year is currently behind total budget expenses by \$32,686 – last year we were behind \$16,613.

Our budget cash went from -\$40,144.96 at the end of July to -\$43,506.67, dropping \$3,361.71 in August.

With the fall stewardship campaign starting up in the next month or so, hopefully pledges, etc. will catch back up in the next several months.

Notes: Another budget meeting will be planned for November.

OUTREACH: (Kelly Klug)

St. Ben's – searched online for information for volunteering 4:45 – 6:45 with dates provided, volunteering will be for serving beverages, etc. Will work with pastors and/or Erica to get date nailed down.

PROPERTY: (Sarah Brogni)

After identifying the trees that need to come down around the property, we found it was very expensive.

Thankfully, Pat and Adan took down several of the smaller trees on the property. We can then get the stumps ground for significantly lower cost.

Notes: Nativity looking into other options. Courtyard wall repair looking to be repaired Oct 26 and plan to apply for Thrivent grant to purchase materials.

WORSHIP: (Kelly Olson)

Attendees – Pastor Paul, Eryn Durlam, Vince Olson, Deb Donovan, Tori Saunders, Jane Braband, Kelly Olson (Pastor Heidi was on vacation)

New keyboard fund drive was successful; Eryn placed the order.

Deb purchased ½ the upper 4th octave of handbells with donations given at Lenten meals sponsored by the handbell choirs. She was fortunate to find them for a good price on eBay.

A date/service will be determined for when the new keyboard and handbells will be dedicated

Due to decreasing available ringers, Deb made the decision to combine for one handbell choir.

A very good turnout of approximately 70-80 Grace members worshipped at All People's on August 25th. One member commented that worshipping at ALC makes a more tangible connection to our partner congregation. Pastor Paul would encourage us to continue to do this every other year.

Parenting in the Pews was introduced to families and children on Rally Day, 9/8. The worship and music team members are encouraged to feel free to do things to get children involved and connected to worship.

Online worship volunteer sign ups are not going so well. Announcements are being made in services to remind people to sign up online. If things do not improve, we will need to go back to assigning dates to people. Pastor Paul asked team members to encourage people to get involved as ushers, greeters, readers, communion assistants, etc.

The first three Sundays in October will be dedicated to our fall stewardship theme, *Believing in Grace*. Short 2-3-minute videos are being created to support the message each week. The videos will be delivered to the congregation via email on the Monday following each service.

November Sermon Themes and service outlines were reviewed.



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11/7 & 11/10 Pulpit swap with Grace Thiensville Pastor Bill Beyer. Pastor Beyer will preach and lead the Adult Forum on what Reconciling in Christ to help the congregation understand what it means as we move forward with becoming a RIC congregation.

Next meeting: November 12th @ 6:30 PM.

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY COMMITTEE: (Jen Jacobson)

We met on September 23rd, Katie Eippert, Erica Dimmett, Pat Murack, Sarah Newell, and myself were all in attendance. We discussed the Mission Trip for 2020, shared feedback on VBS for next summer, "Parenting in the Pews" kick off, adding new members to the committee and upcoming events

The **HYPE Summer 2020 Mission** trip will be to North Carolina through Kure Beach Mission Trips. We hope to have about 14 youth go. The youth would work on community service projects as well as extra activities for group bonding. The estimated cost is \$440 per person, which includes lodging, food, and the extra activities.

VBS for 2020

We felt the 150 cap worked well for space and structure of VBS and will keep it the same for 2020

We hope to create a few new documents, such as an emergency procedure for the Volunteer staff to follow, and a more detail statement for parents on how they can help with dropping off their children.

Parenting in the Pews Kicked off – We would like to thank the worship committee, Pastors, and other leadership that has truly made this program a group effort.

Kids Worship Notes is generating a good number of response

Katie reported good feed back on the kids getting involved with worship from other members

We discussed changes for the pew cards that allow children to follow Worship and parents tips on how to get them involved. We are going to monitor them a few more weeks and hope to have a more finalized copy to laminate by October.

Katie is going to start the Tip of the Month with October

Adding new committee members, we discussed the needs we have as a committee and hope to add a few new members.

Upcoming Events

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

Trunk or Treat on October 27th. Lunch at 11:30am and Trunk or treating with games starting at 12pm.

We are hoping to get other committees and Ministry groups involved by having them decorate a trunk. This is a fun and great way of introducing the children to our different ministries if they choose too. A good example is Katie always does a trunk with the following years VBS theme.

Christmas Program on December 15th. Katie and Erica introduced the rest of the group to the program they have chosen for this year's Christmas program.

Next Meeting will be in October 21st.

Sunday School

Rally Sunday was September 8.

Had a very good turnout! Several families who haven't been a part of Sunday School for a while and a few new families joined us. That was great to see!!

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 took 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



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We will continue to collect pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House

Parenting in the Pews

We kicked off 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. It has been great to see everyone working together on this idea.

Here are a few of the things we are doing together across various areas of worship:

Worship Thoughts sheets for any child who would like to complete one. Several will be randomly selected at the end of each month for prizes

Pastors are lifting up various things in sermons or Bible story readings for kids to specifically pay attention to.

Music leaders are lifting of things for kids to listen for or participate with.

Blue worship guides are located in the pews. These include icons for kids to follow along with and suggestions for parents on how to help their kids participate throughout worship.

The same icons on the blue worship guides are located on the bottom of the screen in church, so kids can easily follow along.

Bulletins with all the words—ushers have extra copies of bulletins with all the words if early readers would like to pick one up to follow along

Monthly Parenting in the Pew tips for parents in Grace Notes and bulletins

We handed out 80 prayer bookmarks with Grace youth. If you received a bookmark, please pray for this child throughout the year.

Christmas Program

Erica was on her game after Christmas last year and picked out a few Christmas programs when they were FREE!! We have selected "A Star Is Born"

Music practice for the Christmas Program began last week.

Other Business

Discussion on how the RIC vote would take place.

Constitution is in process of being updated. Steve Knowles is working on this; 2 votes are needed to approve it.

Next Meeting Oct 24th at 7:20 with Mark Barber to lead devotional.

Closing Prayer: Pastor Heidi