

Grace Lutheran Church Council Minutes
September 24, 2015

In Attendance:

*Pastor Paul Bulgerin	*Darlyne Holle	*Aimee Lempke
*Pastor Heidi Borkenhagen	Trudi Biefeld	*John Walch
*Ruth Schmidt	*Lisa Bernd	*Scott Donovan
*Jim Mulholand	Sarah Ganaway	*Katie Eippert
*Mara Schwartz	Melanie Arndt	*Laurie Gosselin

The meeting began at 7:20p.m. With President John Walch presiding.

DEVOTION: Katie Eippert

APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 2015 MINUTES

PASTOR PAUL'S REPORT:

Fall Stewardship: I am working on our program for this year, with the two Sundays of Stewardship being October 4 and 11.

A pre-stewardship letter was mailed to the congregation earlier this week laying out our goals and challenges for 2016. I did put in that we are looking for an increase of at least \$66,000 in needed giving for 2016. That number will be higher, but we don't know exactly what it is at this time.

The second mailing goes out the week of September 28. In it I will detail what our greatly increased mortgage will mean for our giving. I am going to address those who support the program, those who didn't support it and those who are not active in giving, encouraging all of us to generously increase our giving to support not just our new church home, but our programming and staff. I will stress that this is a "church family" decision we have made and we all need to do our part to support it.

My two stewardship sermons will deal with the more general idea of giving to support our expanded church home (October 4) and with the specifics of what this means for our individual giving (October 11). I will stress both the challenge and the rewards involved in our building program.

I also plan to talk in my October 11 sermon about what Karen and I give, the financial issues we face in our own lives and what we plan to do for 2016. Jeff Newlin has encouraged such personal sharing about giving in sermons.

The faith commitment packets will be available on Sunday, October 11.

I am going to recruit a number of volunteers (and council members are welcome to help here) to make some encouraging phone calls to some of our more generous givers about what they can do to help.

We are looking at needing **many** individual increases of \$1,000 or more for 2016.

I also plan a special letter to the parents of our younger children encouraging them in their giving since so much of what we are doing is to enable Grace to better meet the needs of our families with younger children.

"God's Work Our Hands": The day went very well with about 120 Grace members going out to serve on Sunday, September 13. We had fewer work opportunities this year (in part due to not being able to line up small household and yard projects with local agencies, something we did last year), but every one of our ten projects was full or close to full for volunteers.

The planning team and the meal team both did excellent work. Now we can start planning for 2017.

New Members: Lisa, Heidi and I are going to discuss postponing new members until later in the year. We have a nice group of potential new members, but we don't know where we can meet with them on Sunday mornings due to the building program. We will discuss having the new member sessions on a day other than Sunday if our potential new members are open to that.

PASTOR HEIDI'S REPORT:

Worship: It was so much fun to play in the flute choir. Thanks to Eryn Durlam for putting that together, and for her wonderful music leadership.

I did a lot of work putting together the service and special bulletin for the 50th Anniversary service. It was a glorious day! Thanks to all who put in extra effort, especially Lisa Bernd who worked so hard.

It's fun to work on the tag team sermon with Pastor Paul and AIM Ruth for Rally Day!

Paul and I are planning to meet with Eryn this month to look at new options for worship in the ELW.

HYPE Youth Group: We begin this week. Jack Walch is leading some games, and there is an event planned (Pizza and Capture the Flag) for October 11. Rock Climbing will be in November, and all the lessons are planned through Christmas.

TNT: I'll be getting a schedule out for the Fall within the week.

Retreat: I had hoped for November 7, but with all that's happening in the next month that's not going to work. I'll look for a new date in January since December will be too busy for people.

Fall Theological Conference: I attended the synod's conference this week. The speaker was Dr. Andrew Root, whose area of specialty is youth. He had some interesting things to say- including the importance of hangout time with youth, how to persevere in our failures, and a look at how our cultural priorities have changed in recent years.

Sabbatical: I'll be sharing about my sabbatical with the congregation on two dates: Sunday, October 4 during the Education Hour, and Thursday, October 15 at 7:30. I look forward to telling people about what I did, and having some discussions with them based on ideas I have for our ministry together.

AIM RUTH'S REPORT:

Sunday School: Have a great returning staff and new curriculum to work with. Still have much to do to get ready for Sunday.

Confirmation: Our 7th and 8th grade classes have met twice so far and are on their way into the first semester. We have 11 students in our 7th grade class. There has really been a wide range of Sunday School participation by these students. This Sunday, I will meet with the 7th graders for their 3 1/2 hour workshop about our call to Serve others. I have two mom Guides who are sharing time with the 7 girls and am still in need of a male to work with the boys.

KFC: So grateful to have recruited Cindy Witt and Steve Buchman to provide new leadership for KFC. Mari Goecks has also offered to be on our leadership team. There will be a meeting with the 4th-6th graders and their parents on Sunday morning. Schedules for the year will be passed out. We hope to get many more preteen kids involved this year.

Women's Brunch Bible Study: We've started our new study, *The Family of Jesus*, by Karen Kingsbury.

Synod Conference: I attended the Fall Synod Theological Conference at Green Lake Conference Center on Monday and Tuesday of this week. The presenter was terrific and I'm using some of what I learned with my Confirmation and Sunday School lessons this year.

DIRECTOR OF INVOLVMENT:

50th Anniversary Celebration: The 50th Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, September 20 was a huge success. Many people commented to me on how wonderful the service & the ground breaking ceremony were.

The picnic went off without a hitch. I have a wonderful committee who worked hard to make everything awesome. The food was delicious. There also was a kickball game that everyone who played said was so much fun & would like to do something like that again.

September's service of the month was God's Work Our Hands. There were many people in the congregation that signed up so it appears to be another great day for our congregation.

October's Service of the month is the Milwaukee Rescue Mission. The committee chose a few new services for our congregation as a way we can help for the future.

November 1 & 8 we will be doing our congregational art piece. We will be making a permanent tile wall hanging for the gathering space. Kandy Gibson, who is the director of the Adult Literacy Program, is also a potter. She will be making a tree out of tiles & the congregation will be able to purchase tiles & make the frame for the piece. We will be making the tiles in between the services & after the 10:30 service. We will have to figure out a place for it to be set up.

Women's Book Study: My summer book study was great. I had 8 women participate in the group. Pastor Heidi & I will be starting our new groups in October. We will be reading *Bad Girls of the Bible*. I am excited to start a new book & discussion group.

Sunday School: I am getting everything set to start Sunday School on Sunday. I have sent out a mailing to all of the Sunday School students with registration sheets. They have begun to come in already. I also sent our Keeping the Promise invitations to the 3K families.

Confirmation: I have made the attendance sheets & sermon & worship notes check lists made & ready for the students.

Hymnals: I ordered, made & labeled all of the new hymnals. I also worked with Ed & Pastor Paul to take out the old hymnals & put the new ones in the worship center.

Door Lock for Office Doors: I spent many hours working to get the key pad fixed for the office doors. When it was all said & done – it is too expensive to fix & since we are getting new key pads for the other doors we will need to replace this one when the building is finished. There is now a lock box on the worship center outside doors for people to get a key to get in.

Mailers: This month I printed the letter & labels & put together the mailing for the congregation for our Stewardship campaign.

Trunk or Treat: Planning is under way for this year's Trunk or Treat extravaganza! Korey Gierach has gotten the sign-up sheets out & I will have an article in the Good News, Grace Notes & the bulletin insert this week. Also I have been contacted by the KFC leaders & they would like to lead a few games that day. It should be another fun time.

FELLOWSHIP:

Fellowship is discussing possible events that can take place before the year end. I'm looking at a few Christian concerts. Local, one at Christ Church the end of Oct Another is Nov in Waukesha. I believe we have Thanksgiving Pie Social?

PROPERTY:

Our custodian Dennis Baruss has returned to duty.

The building committee along with Groth Design and Catalyst Construction have been meeting regularly as we get very close to starting our renovation project.

There are a number of things needed to be determined prior to shovels hitting the ground.

Our projected start is Thursday October 8th.

An office trailer on site, will cost approximately \$4500.00.

A storage pod 10' wide by 25' long and 8' high is approximately \$1500.00. This cost reflects the pod being delivered to our site. Off-site storage is additional if needed.

The cost of the office trailer and storage pod is not reflected in the building budget.

Electric hook-up and phone/internet will be needed for the office trailer, and this cost I believe is not part of the building budget too. I will advise as I know more.

We will talk with Catalyst shortly to determine the best placement of the pod and office trailer with respect to construction access. My thoughts today are to line them north-to-south on the east side of the parking lot parallel to the sidewalk on 6th Ave.

I will be getting quotes for new furnaces and air conditioning condensers for worship after the HVAC contractor for the renovation are signed into contract. The cost of these furnaces and condensers are not included in the building budget. I recommend we install these units prior to the heating season of 2015-2016.

The council voiced a strong feeling that the HVAC needs to be included as part of the building program. The congregation was told this would be part of the building program and it needs to be part of the program.

The building committee will be meeting again Monday September 28th, 6:30 P.M.

Many things are going to be needed to be packed and moved out of the building. Pastors, Aim Ruth, and office staff should determine what's needed to work, and what can be packed until completion. Begin packing non essentials now! The storage unit should be used for non-essentials/furniture that staff may, or may not be able to retrieve once the unit is filled until the end of our renovation and we move back into our new facility.

A few volunteers, will be picking up the piano so graciously donated by Dave and Mary Defenbaugh Saturday September 26th. We will be delivering it to Grace and placing it in fellowship hall. The Defenbaugh's are asking for a receipt from church for tax purposes.

The key pad entry at the office door has failed. Lisa was dealing with the manufacturer, and I believe a decision will need to be made as to how we resolve this issue as this door and entry system will be taken out once construction begins. For now, we've attached a lock box to the vestibule.

CHRISTIAN CARE:

Trunk or Treat is in the initial planning phases and sign ups should be going up soon.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

--Sunday School: All all positions are filled. Rally Sunday is Sept 27.

--Background Checks: EVERYONE (Sunday School, Confirmation, HS leaders, etc) needs to complete a background check. Dave Polka said they need to be done every 3 years. Working on best way to coordinate that.

--Prayer Rocks at Groundbreaking: There was a table at the church groundbreaking for adults and kids to write a hope or prayer on and they will become a part of the church foundation.

WORSHIP: No Report

OUTREACH:

I attended the first Family Promise meeting this month. Due to our construction, the first two weeks that we will be hosting Family Promise, Dec 6th and March 27th, we will probably physically be at St. John's Lutheran Church, but we will still be the host church and be responsible for the meals, etc. Committees are getting organized and there will be an Orientation meeting set up for the volunteers to attend. Linens, all except for mattress pads and plastic mattress covers, are being donated by a parish in Port Washington. Outreach and Mari will have some kind of donation-fundraiser in January to purchase 16 of each. "At this time" the other weeks will be Jun 19th, Sept 11 and Nov 27. I have been working on a 2016 monthly project schedule. I have saved the months of April and Oct to participate in some form at APC Harambee Kitchen. At this point, I don't have any information on how that will come across.
Oct 19th, next St. Ben'

FINANCIAL REPORT:

A couple items to note are as follows:

1. Our offerings through August slid back again, but not as much this month - were \$21,700.00 behind at the end of July, but now are \$24,130.00 behind – again, pretty typical for summer months.
2. We spent \$37,615.05 in Groth Design charges in July - \$31,920.00 for construction administration fees, \$832.55 for printing and postage \$3712.50 for 'kitchen consultant' fees and \$1150.00 for state fees. In addition, we paid the 'Mission Investment Fund' group \$850.00 for 'document preparation fees' for the loan. The building fund net balance decreased from \$277,331.00 to \$246,478.00 over the month.
3. I'm sure you are also aware that the current Mortgage loan and Line of Credit accounts (with Cornerstone) are being paid off/closed using funds from the MIF loan – that has taken place and I have received documentation from Cornerstone indicating that. Because of that, there was no mortgage payment made this month.

That is it for the month.

VPT:

Vision Planning Team did not meet this month, so there is nothing to report.

Business Old and New

- Update on Building Project
- Endowment committee secretary needed
- Personnel Handbook

News/Notes/Sharing – A huge THANK YOU to Lisa Bernd for all her hard work leading up to, during and continuing on through our construction process!!!!

Closing Prayer – Pastor Paul

