

**Grace Lutheran Church Council Minutes**

April 24, 2014

**In Attendance:**

*Pastor Paul Bulgerin	*Cindy Witt	*Nicole Michel
*Pastor Heidi Borkenhag	*Trudi Biefeld	*John Walch
*Ruth Schmidt	*Lisa Bernd	*Scott Donovan
*John Conto	*Roger Goecks	*Katie Eippert
*Mara Schwartz	Melanie Arndt	Aimee Lempke

The meeting began at 7:30p.m. With President Mara Schwartz presiding. Pastor Paul opened the meeting with a prayer.

**DEVOTIONAL:** Roger Goecks

APPROVAL OF THE **MARCH 2013** MINUTES:

**PASTOR PAUL'S REPORT:** .

**“Grow In Grace” Campaign:** The appeal is coming to a close after nearly five months of hard work by a lot of volunteers and our church staff. We should end up with over \$1,000,000 in pledges to be given over the next three years. This will enable us to move forward with our proposed building program.

A letter is going to go out next week to those members who have not yet made a commitment encouraging and inviting them to join in the support for “Grow In Grace”.

My thanks to Beth Walch and Ed Eckert, who headed up our campaign, and all the other members who gave of their time, energy and money to help make it a success.

I was very pleased with Jeff Newlin and RSI Stewardship. I personally think that the prayer approach they use was beneficial for our congregation.

Now we can get the Building Committee moving with the next steps in the process.

We will keep the congregation informed on what we are doing and congregational meetings will be called at the appropriate steps along the way.

**Operation Inasmuch:** I am working to put together a group to attend the training session at St. Luke Lutheran Church in Slinger on Saturday, May 3. I'd like us to designate a date in early fall for Grace to get out into our community to serve others in a variety of ways.

**Church Organist:** We are trying to work out an agreement and schedule with our organist candidate.

\*Discussed the Endowment Committee making a donation to COE. Motion: Endowment Committee will make a disbursement of \$1500 to COE.  
Motion Passes

**PASTOR HEIDI'S REPORT:** Please see May's Report.

**AIM RUTH'S REPORT:**

**Sunday School:** The Sunday School Worship Olympic Extravaganza on May 4<sup>th</sup> is for families with 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> graders. We have been studying worship in our Bible/Memory station this year.

**KFC:** A small group of students had a super fun time at our April Games and Lunch Event. Their favorite was the Sundae Making Relay.

**Continuing Ed:** I attended the Synod Healthy Boundaries Workshop. Special time was given to discussing media opportunities and still keeping our children safe.

**Easter Visits:** I visited two of our members, at Lasata, who I've had a long time connection with.

**Children's Messages:** We had a good turn out during Lent and between 55-60 children at the Easter services (some were guests). I will need to order more of the gifts for next year.

**Cluster Funeral:** On Saturday, I will be attending the funeral of Diane Loberger who served as Pastor at St. Peter in Sheboygan. Please pray for her congregation as they grieve her loss.

**Outreach and Service:** I'm planning on attending the *In-As-Much* training on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**DIRECTOR OF INVOLVMENT:**

**Grow In Grace:** Right now for our Grow In Grace Capital campaign, I am getting everyone's individual thank you letters ready to send to everyone who has donated to the program. I am working with printers to get a quote for printing the donation envelopes. They will go out together next week. I am continuing to keep Jeff Newlin, our RSI consultant, updated on our progress. I will be working with Romy McCarthy & Ralph Jeletz over the next 3 years keeping everyone updated on our progress, getting out statements so that everyone knows where there are in their commitments & whatever else needs to be done to make this a huge success.

**Stephen Ministry:** I continue working with the Stephen Ministry program.

**New Members:** We will be taking in New Members in May. Our new member classes are Sunday, May 4, May 11 & May 18. The new member reception will be Sunday, May 18. We are going to try something different this time. We will have the reception & introduction to group leaders between the services. We will serve coffee, juice, muffins, Danish etc. It is always good to try new things.

**Counters:** In the past everything that has to do with the counters (training, finding replacements, coming in when counters don't show up, etc.) was taken care of by the treasurer. During the time when our treasurer was not very present, all of this fell on me. It takes up a lot of my time especially when the counters do not count on their scheduled Sunday. So I would like to give that responsibility back to the treasurer, if that is ok with everyone.

**Summer Hours:** Ed & I will be starting our summer hours the week of May 25. I will not be working on Monday afternoon & Ed will not be working on Friday afternoon. As always, if there is work to be done, an event or anything that requires our attention, we will work. Summer hours will end after Labor Day.

**Technology Seminar:** Ed & I attended a technology seminar on Tuesday, April 22 in Racine. It was put on by CCB a company that we have purchased computer equipment from before.

**PROPERTY:**

4 new garbage cans for the classrooms were ordered to replace some broken ones.

1 new clock was purchased to replace a broken one from one of the classrooms.

I was asked to investigate the possibility of changing the CFL bulbs in the Sanctuary to something that will allow for a greater dimming ability. The only option other than going back to halogens would be LED lights. I have checked out a few manufactures and found Phillips makes a new LED bulb that is comparable in kelvin temperature (light color) to the CFL's as well as the halogens.

The Phillips bulb is a PAR 30 – 13 watt that replaces a 60-watt halogen bulb, this PAR 30 size fits into the recessed ceiling fixtures in the Sanctuary and has a kelvin temperature of 5000K

This is a completely dimmable bulb and the cost is \$34.50 per bulb (shipping is included in this price) X 36 bulbs in the Sanctuary or a total cost of \$1,242.00

This request was made because there are two services per year that require precise dimming of the lights in the Sanctuary and they are having trouble dimming the CFL bulbs to the desired light levels for these two services.

I think this is something that council will need to discuss as I do not have funds in the Property account this year to make a purchase this size, and stay within my budget.

**FELLOWSHIP:**

For April, we co-hosted the All Church Event (Campaign Party) with the ACE Committee on Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup> after the second service till about 1:30 p.m. There was a HUGE turnout and it was a big success. The ballpark food and snacks were tasty and set the right ambience, the kids loved the bounce house and baseball & bean bag toss games and the adults enjoyed the Comedy Sportz shows. Bernie Brewer was a big hit as well. Overall, a fun party for all!

We do not have an event planned for May.

For June, we will be helping with a church-wide rummage sale on Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup> from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. All the proceeds will go to the building fund. It is being planned by Lisa LaMaster, Pastor Heidi and Mari, who will be recruiting lots of helpers for subcommittees for a brat fry, maybe a bake sale, pre-sale work (organizing and setting up sale items) and the sale day (running the sale and take down). More details to come. There is a planning meeting for anyone interested in helping on this Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup> after the second service in the library.

Also for June, we will be hosting the annual summer picnic on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. We are planning on serving pulled pork sandwiches and hot dogs as the main entrées and asking for cold salads and desserts, as usual. For entertainment, we are planning on bingo in the Fellowship Hall with Dave Polka as the emcee. Dave will provide some music, jokes and props to go along with the bingo and we will give out little prizes to the winners. We also will have kiddie bingo with pictures instead of numbers, either in one corner of Fellowship Hall or a Sunday School room. We are considering outdoor (maybe water) toys for the kids as well.

We do not have an event planned for July.

For August, we are thinking of hosting a brunch after the VBS service on Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup>.

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:**

### 1) Sunday School

Will be getting out Sunday School surveys to teachers in next few weeks—should help with idea of what teachers are coming back

Will be hosting a Sunday School Extravaganza on May 4 during Education Hour.

Parents and students are invited to attend.

Next year's Sunday School program will begin on Sept 14

### 2) High School Youth Group

Hosting brunch on May 4 (money to go to Blake's family)

### 3) Junior Youth & Pre-Teen Groups

KFC will be helping with serving and clean up at HS brunch

### 4) Vacation Bible School

Date changed to Aug 11-15

Will have registration forms and teacher sign up ready for May 4

Will have a “blessing of the backpacks” for all kids at the Aug 17 VBS worship service

## **WORSHIP:**

The worship planning team met on December 3, 2013. The following WPT members were present: Pastor Paul, Pastor Heidi, Scott Donovan, Deb Donovan, Vince Olson, Jan Jacques

Opening prayer

Pastors reports:

- discussed counting people in worship and attempts to get accurate numbers
- Summer schedule starts May 25 when there will be one service at 9:00
- The Vince, with or without the praise team, will play once per month during the summer

Lent, Easter and Holy Week

- Readers need for Good Friday
- Katy will be doing a solo on Good Friday
- Bells will play Good Friday, and at 6:00 and 8:00 on Easter

May services

- First Sunday: Wellness theme continues with Physical Wellbeing.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday: Social Wellness, Heidi talking about relationships
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday: Affirmation of Baptism with worship at 12:15.
  - Sermon theme: Knowing Your Place (Pastor Heidi)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday: start summer schedule
  - Sermon theme: “The God So Many Don’t Know: (Pastor Paul)
- Thursday, 5/29: preacher needed
  
- June 1: Graduate Recognition service

There was discussion about the organist position. We will pursue discussions with our current candidate while moving forward looking for other candidates.

VBS is moved to August 11 – 15, and VBS Sunday will be Aug 17

Deb will help to plan kids bells next year.

The meeting closed with prayer and was adjourned.

**OUTREACH: No Report**

**CHRISTIAN CARE:**

**New Resident Mailings:** I have ordered and received 100 post cards to mail out to new residents in the Grafton and Cedarburg area. I have attained 29 addresses and will start the mailings tomorrow. I am logging in all of the Mequon/Theinsville addresses on a spreadsheet, as well. If the response is good from Grafton/Cedarburg area, I will also include Mequon and Theinsville in the mailings. News Graphic does not report sales in Saukville or Port. The combined home sales for Grafton/Cedarburg/Mequon/Theinsville area is about 25-35 each month. I am handwriting each card out to personalize it a little more. I am also asking that each new resident "bring in the card" to receive their Welcome Gift. This way we can track how well this advertising is working. Here are the post cards I am using for this.



**New Member Coffee Reception:** We will be hosting our New Members for a small reception between services on May 18. We will have muffins, juice and coffee.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Offering is down \$12,602 compared to budget and \$19,837 compared to last year. I met with Bob Dries today to see if there were any special items from last year. We also checked with Lisa Bernd to see if anyone has changed the way they give. Because it was last minute, I don't have an answer just yet. April will help us catch up a little bit.

Capital Campaign Fund Drive balance as of end of March was \$16,946.

We have already spent more on Plowing and Salting this year than we did all of last year. The good news is that we are not yet cutting the grass. I am hoping this will help to offset a little bit.

I also checked with Bob about the continuing education budget and amount budgeted was reduced to \$450. The actual amount used for 2012 was \$827, 2013 was \$411 with a plan of \$900 and the budget for 2014 is \$450.

At May meeting we will talk about putting a plan in place about giving. Especially if we are behind.

## **VPT:**

VPT has not had a meeting since the last council, but have identified 4 persons who are interested in being members of VPT that need council approval they are:

- Paula Race
- Barb Eckart
- Chris Eipert
- Korey Gierach

Motion: move to appoint the five candidates to the Vision Planning team – Paula Race Mantel, Barb Eckert, Chris Eippert, Korey Gierach & Mike Brown.

Motion Passed

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

Organist search - working with a candidate to fill position. Looking at scheduling, salary, etc...

Outreach Chair search - the Outreach position has been filled by Trudi Biefeld. Motion: Church Council moves to appoint Trudi Biefeld as the Outreach Chair. Motion Passes

We will get congregational approval at the next special meeting or at the congregational meeting.

Capital Fund Campaign Update

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Additional members for VPT (Paula Race, Barb Eckart, Chris Eipert, Korey Gierach)

New website design – We are working on a new website. This will have mobile capabilities

Investment Center of Grafton Account (Open to accept Stock or Mutual Fund Cert donations) - We will be opening an account through the Investment Center in Grafton.

Motion: Move to open an account at the Investment Center of Grafton

Motion Passed

Charitable Checking through Cornerstone Bank

Building Program – create plan moving forward - The building committee will meet in in April 2014 to start planning with the goal of breaking ground in the spring of 2015.

Pastor Heidi's Schedule

**Closing Prayer** – Mara Schwartz

