

**Grace Lutheran Church Council Minutes**

June 26, 2014

**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. Pastor Paul opened the meeting with a prayer.

**DEVOTIONAL:** Katie Eippert

Building Committee Update: Janet came to our meeting and gave us an update as to where the building committee is at. Right now they have interviewed three firms, they will all be sending their proposals to the committee and then they will be making a recommendation to the council as to which one they feel is the best fit for Grace.

**APPROVAL OF THE MAY 2014 MINUTES:**

**PASTOR PAUL'S REPORT:**

**Organist Search:** Thanks to some additional advertising we have had six inquiries about the position conducted two interviews and will have another one in early July.

One of the candidates we interviewed would be an excellent organist. She is one of those who are looking for more hours of employment than we are offering with just the organist's position. She has many years' experience leading church choirs.

**Operation Inasmuch:** I preached on what "Operation Inasmuch" is all about on June 15 and we put sign-up sheets out for people to indicate their interest in participating. I was thrilled to see that 100 people signed up to participate in some sort of work project that day (our goal would be around 150 people) and nine said they would be part of the planning committee.

Our next step is a meeting with those who are interested in working with the planning. I am going to schedule a brief organizational meeting after worship on June 29.

The big work ahead of us is identifying the different projects we want to do on September 7 and then get a volunteer or volunteers going on organizing and promoting each of those projects.

This is a good start to making our September 7 "Inasmuch Day" a success!

**Mission Trip:** I will be on the high school mission trip to Sky Ranch in Colorado from July 4-12. We have a total of twenty-five people going. The other adult leaders are my wife Karen, John Conto, Beth Walch and Judy Steffen. While at the camp we may be helping to build a bell tower for the camp and working to clear and maintain trails in and around the camp. These mission trips are a good way to build up our youth group and to help our teens live out their Affirmation of Baptism promise to love and serve God by loving and serving others in God's name.

**"Grow In Grace" Campaign:** We have topped the \$100,000 mark in donations given and will celebrate that at worship this weekend (June 22).

**PASTOR HEIDI'S REPORT:**

**Change in Hours:** I am so grateful to the council for the support and willingness to allow me to cut back on my hours. Thank you for your understanding. It has been wonderful to have more time with my kids. I also received many positive comments from church members that they are glad that I can be with my kids more. It has been a bit of a challenge to get everything done with the reduced time, but I'm sure it will take time to adjust for many of us.

**College Student Gathering:** We had a nice gathering this past Monday at Water Street Brewery. I've planned another one for July 28 at Highland House.

**High School Youth Group:** The leaders will be meeting this month to make plans for the year.

**TNT:** The Chinooks game was a lot of fun and we had 25 people who were there. There are a couple cookouts in the works for the rest of the summer.

**Rummage Sale:** A huge thanks to all who worked very hard on this! What a great thing to support our church, reach out to the community, and give donations to many other worthy organizations.

**Locks of Love:** I've been in conversation with Korey Gierach about doing a Locks of Love campaign at Grace in honor of her son, Graham, who was recently diagnosed with alopecia (causes hair loss). I also talked to my hair salon and they're willing to donate free haircuts to anyone who is giving hair to Locks of Love. This will be during the month of April to give people time to grow out their hair. Please see my Good News article for more info, tell you family and friends, and consider making this sacrifice to care for kids with hair loss.

**Confirmation Camp:** The kids were good for camp the first couple days when I was with them, despite their nerves and some time in the storm shelters late at night!

**Vacation:** I'll be gone from Friday, June 27-Sunday, and July 6.

**AIM RUTH'S REPORT:**

Confirmation camp was wonderful. Working on VBS. Will be preaching on July 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.

**DIRECTOR OF INVOLVMENT:**

**Grow In Grace:** I will be doing the quarterly statements at the beginning of July which will include the Grow In Grace Capital Campaign. It will show how much their pledge is & what they have contributed so far. I will be sending it out with a note in the email thanking everyone for all of the contributions to Grace not just for the capital campaign.

**VBS:** I have been helping Katie get some of the "stuff" ready for VBS. The main work will be happening next month. It is always an exciting time of the summer.

**Counters:** Aimee & I are still working on finding one more counter for the second Sunday of the month. Ed Borckenhagen has made up a new counting sheet to include our Grow In Grace Capital Campaign that the counters are not catching on too. We have tweaked it numerous times in order to make it easier to follow. I think we need to have a counter training session to go over all of the new changes, remind people that if they are not going to be able to count on their given day, they need to find a replacement (counters cannot count alone), and just a in general questions & answer time. I would like to do it in early September. I will work with Aimee on finding a date that will work for both of us.

**PROPERTY:**

Summer cleaning is underway.

Weeding around the church is being taken care of by church members volunteering.

The lawn was rolled to smoothen out winter damage.

With over 5 inches of rain in the last two weeks the roof leaks persist.

The new sump pump is operating better than expected, a minor problem was found with the check valve, but that has been remedied.

A new wet/Dry vacuum was purchased for the church

A new steel door was purchased to replace the damaged door to the alcove. The wooden door rotted away and needed to be replaced. We are installing the door ourselves.

We have lost a large tree on the South West side of the church to disease. The tree will be removed this fall.

Best Heating & Air Conditioning will be in to look at the HVAC and we will be getting quotes from roof contractors.

**FELLOWSHIP:**

We hosted the indoor summer picnic this past Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>. It went really well. There were 104 people in attendance and we collected \$191 from the free will offering. We served pulled pork sandwiches, sloppy joes and hot dogs as the main entrées and had donated side dishes, cold salads, fruit and desserts. The food was delicious and there was plenty for all. For entertainment, we had bingo for all ages in the Fellowship Hall with Dave Polka as the emcee. Dave provided some music and jokes and we gave out little summer-related prizes to the winners. We also had some toys set up in Luther for the kids (hula hoops, toss games and jump ropes). Despite the crummy weather, everyone had a good time and it seemed that people really enjoyed bingo. With that in mind, we may plan a fall-themed bingo night in October with possibly a dessert and hot chocolate/apple cider bar and prizes, of course!

We do not have an event planned for July.

For August, we will be hosting a brunch for everyone in Fellowship Hall after the VBS service on Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup>. We will be contacting AIM Ruth and Katie Eippert to inform us of what snacks and picnic lunch food is being served to the kids during the week, so we can plan to serve other VBS theme-related foods for the brunch.

Our next meeting will be in August.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:**

The Christian Ed Committee didn't meet in June. We continue to work on filling the Sunday School positions for fall and prepare for VBS.

**WORSHIP:**

Worship Planning Team met on June 3. Pastor Paul was on vacation. We discussed the July services, which will continue to look at stories in the Old Testament

Looking at possible workshop at All Peoples at the end of July.

Organist position remains open. We discussed new approaches to recruiting.

**OUTREACH:**

The Outreach Opportunity Bulletin Board has been created and I have posted several opportunities including the All Peoples Church VBS Dinner. Sign up sheets are posted for food donations and volunteering. The sign up has been slow, I have asked the Pastors to announce it for the next two weeks and also to have a special Grace Notes.

A thank you email has gone out to the past volunteers, including the upcoming event schedules. Also on the bulletin board is the information for the St. Ben's Hunger Walk. As of now, I do not have any interest in someone being the Captain of the team. I have also not heard of anyone interested in completing the walk/run.

Brother Dave from St. Ben's has been in contact with me and we have set up dates for the 2014 and 2015. They are listed on the Outreach Calendar.

A donation bin is in place for donations for the Women's Shelter. I have contacted Katie regarding the possibility of the VBS donating items in addition. Sometime during the end of August, the donations will be delivered to the Ozaukee Volunteer Center and they will distribute the items to the Women's Shelter.

The One Can Plan remains in place and the food collected by the date for APC will be delivered to them at the time of the dinner.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Offering is \$9,508 less than last year.

We are still in need of a second counter for the second Sunday of the month. Ideally, I would like to fill this position as well as having a substitute for the Sundays when someone needs to find another counter.

**VPT:**

The VPT met with Ruth to discuss her ideas on retirement, what the next couple of years will look like, and what her ideas for the future of Grace are. At our next meeting we will be discussing our plan to move forward on this process.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Organist Search: A meeting was had about how to move forward with advertising for this position. Two candidates have been interviewed, the 1<sup>st</sup> marginal, 2<sup>nd</sup> was a game changer but took a different position so is out of the running. One more candidate left to interview.

Finance Committee: A motion was made by John Walch to form a Finance Committee with the members discussed at tonight's meetings. This motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Scott Donovan and carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Christian Care Council Member: Still looking for someone interested in taking over this position.

**Closing Prayer** – Pastor Heidi

