

Grace Lutheran Church Council Minutes
May 22, 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 7:20p.m. With President Mara Schwartz presiding. Pastor Paul opened the meeting with a prayer.

DEVOTIONAL: AIM Ruth

APPROVAL OF THE **APRIL 2014** MINUTES: Minutes were tabled for email vote.

PASTOR PAUL'S REPORT:

Planning Ahead for our 2014 Giving: We said back in January that we need to keep a careful eye on our giving for this year and keep the congregation informed where we stand. I suggest that we have a group of council leaders meet in early June to examine where we are and how best to keep the congregation aware of our giving and also how, if needed, we can approach individual members later in the year should we need additional offerings.

Capital Fund Appeal: We do have one more larger gift promised to us which could put us over the million dollar total for the appeal. A letter was sent out several weeks ago to those who had not yet returned a commitment card offering them the opportunity to do so.

Operation Inasmuch: We had five Grace members attend the May 3 training session. We all feel that this is a program in which Grace should participate. We have a tentative date set in early September that might tie in with the ELCA's day of service. I am going to preach a sermon about Operation Inasmuch on June 15. We need to begin our work on this now in order to make it a success. I will be devoting a good deal of time this summer to preparing for our Operation Inasmuch day.

New Members: We took in a nice group of new members this month. A number of them are involved in the building and remodeling business and expressed interest in helping with the building program.

Mission Trip: We've lost one and possibly two of our adult leaders for the trip due to medical reasons, but we still have four adults and 21 youth going to Sky Ranch in Colorado in early June.

The kids for the mission trip are going to help with the June 14 church rummage sale.

Organist: Cindy Wilmeth has declined to serve as our organist and share her duties with Grace and St. Boniface.

Pastor Heidi's Hours: As I said last month I fully support Pastor Heidi's request to reduce her hours so she can spend more time with her children. If the council approves this we need to draft a letter to the congregation explaining what was done and why it was done. We could also include an update on the organist's position in this letter.

PASTOR HEIDI'S REPORT:

Worship: I enjoyed preaching and planning the Maundy Thursday and Easter Services. I am preaching on Graduate Sunday, and looking into some new blessings for that service. I'm also preaching at the outdoor service and have some fun ideas in store for that!

Once we get the music staff in place I am really hoping to start looking for some new liturgies for the 8 am service.

College Student Gathering: I am offering a time for our college-aged members to get together at the end of June. I hope that we get a good crowd who will reconnect with their church friends. We will have some devotion/reflection time as well.

High School Youth Group: Thanks again to our great leaders who give so much of their time to our youth: Chris and Katie Eippert & Erik and Corey Gierach. We will be meeting to discuss the year and make plans for next year. Pat and Chantal Murack, new members, are interested in helping with youth group in the coming year as well.

TNT: We are going to a Chinooks game in June, having a BBQ in August, and other plans are underway for the summer. I'm planning a Bible study for the Fall.

Lydia Circle Retreat: We had an absolutely wonderful retreat up at Pine Lake May 3-4. We are planning to make it a yearly event.

Brian's New Job: My husband is beginning a new job on June 2. It is for a company in Madison, and he will mainly be working from home. However, he will have several weeks of training in Madison over the summer so my availability may be somewhat limited during evenings.

Synod Assembly: I look forward to attending May 29-31.

Rummage Sale: There are several people heading up the planning- it should be a wonderful way to serve our community, to raise awareness of our church and support our building program!

Confirmation Camp: I will be leading the kids up on Sunday and heading back on Tuesday afternoon. I will be preaching on Thursday.

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

Working on Locks of Love at church for next spring!

AIM RUTH'S REPORT:

Confirmation: It was such a delight working with the 8th graders this year. I will miss them and already look forward to being with them at the 9th Grade Retreat. Each class is special in its own way and I pray that the thirteen youth, who affirmed their baptismal promises on Sunday, will keep their promises and stay connected to their Lord and His church. What a joy to journey with these young people from the beginning of 7th to the end of 9th grade.

Sunday School: This was another year in which we were truly blessed with outstanding volunteers. Three of our teachers will be leaving for college next year: Grace Hagerman, Megan Olson and Maddie Stollenwerk. Two of our college graduates will be returning to the area and have offered to be on our Sunday School staff in the fall. Thanks be to God.

The busy life styles and choices to participate in Sunday sports, by many of our families, are reflected in our Sunday School attendance.

Women's Brunch Bible Study: Our twice a month women's group has really grown this year. Because of new retirements and special invites from some of our attendees, we've grown from five to nine and are really enjoying our time together.

Confirmation Camp: Pastor Heidi and I attended a Crossways Camp meeting to better prepare for the changes in camp this year. Pastor Heidi will be in charge of taking the kids to camp on Sunday, June 15, and leading the Bible study on Monday and Tuesday. I will be coming up on Monday afternoon and leading the Bible study on Wednesday – Friday and returning with the campers on June 20th.

Vacation Bible School: Letters of invitation, with registration forms, are being sent to all those non-Grace members who attended VBS last year. Katie continues to do an exceptional job as we work on staffing.

Synod Assembly: I look forward to attending Synod Assembly with our other lay voting delegates. It's always a great opportunity to reconnect with others in the Greater Milwaukee Synod.

Spiritual Formation Classes: I attended the fourth Spiritual Formation Class on May 4th – 6th. Marty Haugen, writer and composer of *Holden Evening Prayer, Now the Feast and Celebration, many parts of the ELW* and many songs we use in worship, was one of our guest presenters. What a treat to spend those times listening to and singing with him, up close and personal. I look forward to my next set of classes in August.

Retirement Plans: I've notified John Walch that my retirement plans are for 2016, not 2015.

I also had the opportunity to attend the In As Much Campaign.

DIRECTOR OF INVOLVMENT:

Grow In Grace: I have finished writing all the families that donated to the Grow in Grace Capital Campaign a letter confirming their donation & how they will be paying it over the next three years. I also ordered envelopes & included them in their confirmation letter. We are getting in donations each week.

I will be working on BRIDGE committee for the next three years keeping track of the donations, sending out reminders & statements plus a host of other items.

Stephen Ministry: Stephen Leasers are working on recruiting new Stephen Ministers & Leaders. I sent out letters two weeks ago inviting people think about becoming a Stephen Minister & now the Leaders will be making follow up calls to the people who received a letter. They will be checking to see if they have any questions or are interested in more information. Also we will be looking for more Stephen Leaders in the near future since many of our original leaders will be retiring.

New Members: On Sunday, May 18, six new families joined our Grace family. I moved the new member reception to in between the services. This worked wonderfully. Everyone was in attendance, we served a light brunch & everything was done before the 10:30 a.m. service started. We have a dynamic new group & I look forward to seeing all the gifts they bring to Grace.

Counters: Aimee & I are working on finding counters for the second Sunday of the month. Aimee has already secured one counter & still looking for the second. Also, I Ed Borkehagen has made up a new counting sheet to include our Grow In Grace Capital Campaign. I think once the two new counters are in place, counter training may need to happen for all of the counters.

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

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

***Sunday School**

Surveys are out and we're assessing the results Sunday School Conference in Denver will discuss alternative ways to conduct Sunday School. Possibly someone from Grace may attend.

***High School Youth Group**

Had a lot of great help for HS brunch
Raised a total of \$1020 for Blake's family

***Junior Youth & Pre-Teen Groups**

KFC helped with HS brunch
Rescheduled JYG event—didn't get enough sign ups to run

***Vacation Bible School**

Working on getting students and volunteers to sign up

PROPERTY:

It's been reported to me that the doors on the shed are not closing properly as the wood frame has rotted away and needs replacement. I have not gotten estimates for this work at this time. Roger will do at No cost.

As you may have noticed the windows in the Sanctuary are becoming more and more fogged. This is a result of the seal between the two panes of glass leaking and condensation builds up and fogs the glass. There are currently 6 windowpanes that are in various stages of losing their seals and fogging up. I have gotten estimates for their replacement, which comes in at about \$2,500.00 per window.

The wood trim on the portico is rotting away and starting to fall off of the north end of the portico. Estimates to make this repair run about \$200.00 if we do all the labor \$800.00 if we contract the work out.

You may have also noticed we have several roof leaks around the church. One leak over the choir area was repaired and the ceiling was repaired and painted, just to have another leak appear and damage the newly repaired ceiling. Estimates for roof repairs run about \$2,800.00 to \$4,500.00 depending on what they find when they start the repair. Discussion was do we take care of this summer and use capital fund campaign to fix?

One of the circulating pumps for the boiler is showing signs of failure. This is not a major problem now that summer is here and the boiler is shutting down. However this fall when we start the boiler back up again that pump might need rebuilding. That cost runs \$450.00 to \$500.00

Be advised that there are two air conditioning compressor units on the roof for the office areas that are now over 25 years old. These units have a life expectancy of 15 years. We also have one unit for the Sanctuary that is also over 25 years old with the same life expectancy.

Because this last winter was so brutal the property maintenance budget has taken a large hit, we are currently over budget because of the excessive snow removal and salting that we had to contend with. I have no monies available in my budget for any of the above repairs.

Just as the other committees were asked to trim as much as possible from their budgets last fall, property did the same. I have not scheduled any repairs to go forward as the council must decide what repairs will take precedence and also how we will fund those repairs.

Carpet cleaning and other major maintenance is scheduled for this summer, all of which Dennis will be doing.

FELLOWSHIP:

For June, we will be helping with a church-wide rummage sale on Saturday, June 14th from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. All the proceeds will go to the building fund. It is being planned by Lisa LaMaster and Mari, with a committee that includes Pastor Heidi, myself, Tam Duncombe, Denice Luthens and a few more, who will be recruiting lots of helpers for subcommittees for a bake sale and possibly a brat fry (less likely), pre-sale work (organizing and setting up sale items the week before) and the sale day (running the sale and take down). Pastor Paul recruited around 20 teens (those going on the mission trip) to help out. More details to come. There is another planning meeting for anyone interested in helping on Wednesday, May 28th at 6:30 p.m.

Also for June, we will be hosting the annual summer picnic on June 22nd. 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. If the weather is nice, we will have outdoor toys (balls, bubbles, badminton, hula hoops, etc.) for the kids as well.

We do not have an event planned for July.

For August, we will be hosting a brunch after the VBS service on Sunday, August 17th.

Our next meeting will be in June.

WORSHIP:

The worship planning team met on May 6, 2014. The following WPT members were present: Pastor Paul, Scott Donovan, Deb Donovan, Jan Jacques, Beth Walch

Opening prayer

Review of Holy Week services:

Thursday: - put rail up to kneel at communion, offer common cup

Friday: -difficult to dim lights due to type of bulb
-baby noise; discuss with ushers how to handle
-Katy's solo was great

Easter Sunday:

-6:00-bells warm up too long
-Noise issue, again to discuss with ushers
8:00-thanks to Lori for playing organ
All-Heidi's sermons were excellent

Summer musicians: No Vince for extra services due to wrist/hand issues

Will need to cover services with Cindy, Marlene, and whoever else is available.

May 18: Affirmation of Baptism at 12:15, and the Praise Team will play.

In the future, need to discuss with them prior to scheduling

Attendance counting: discussed again and still needs work for accurate numbers

June services:

- First Sunday, June 1: Graduate Sunday

- Second Sunday, June 8: pastor Heidi preaching
- Third Sunday June 15: “Taking Christ Into Our Community – Operation Inasmuch”
 - Pastor Paul preaching
- 4th Sunday: June 22: outdoor service and picnic at 10:00
- 5th Sunday, June 29: “The Monster at your Door” the story of Cain and Abel
 - Pastor Paul preaching

Discussed having real time video of the service in the nursery during service

Discussed organist issues again, including recorded music (Karaoke?)

Reminder, Summer services begin on Sunday, May 25 at 9:00.

The meeting closed with prayer and was adjourned.

Addendum: Pastor Paul and Scott Donovan met with Cindy re organist position.

OUTREACH: Welcome Trudi!!

July 9th Wed Night Alive at All Peoples. Meatball Dinner

Clothing Drive, Collect in October – Deliver in November (Children’s coats and Small Adult)

St. Bens Run/Walk July 25th

Serve meal Friday August 8th

Putting bulletin board together in lobby

CHRISTIAN CARE: No Report – Nicole has resigned

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Items of significance in April:

1. Sunday Offering Income is catching up to budgeted income – only \$2816 behind as of the end of April (we were \$13211 behind at the end of March). This is largely due to the receipt of a large annual pledge payment of \$10,000.00 on 04/13.
2. There was a \$180.00 Cleaning service fee paid for a ‘substitute’ custodian to clean 3 days while Dennis was on vacation.
3. Convention/Leadership Retreats expense of \$1904.43 was due to housing costs for Synod Assembly – this was initial payment to hold Hotel rooms, but is not the complete cost – we will be billed the remaining amount when the event is over.
4. The copier lease fees this month of \$1904.43 includes several annual fees, including \$1,537.00 for the annual Service Contract (which runs from 04/01/14 through 03/31/15) and \$389.18 in annual copy shipping and handling fees for supplies and ‘overage’ fees (for printing more copies than our annual allowance), in addition to the monthly lease rate of \$270.13.
5. No unusual/high expenses in Maint. & Grounds this month.
6. Most of the Capital Fund Drive expenses have been recorded. There will continue to be some additional ones, for mailings and some miscellaneous things, but the majority should be past. We received \$27,070.61 in income for the drive in April – a good start!

VPT:

VPT met on May 5th with 4 of the 5 new members in attendance.

We reviewed our mission and history, noting specifically:

VPT is an extension of the Grace Council, directed to do in-depth study and analysis of anticipated needs for which the Council lacks time and resources. Recommendations are then referred back to the Council.

Continuity of VPT service is desired for three to five years, to maintain a period of consistency that Council membership does not provide.

A previous interview with both Pastors by VPT representatives provided direction for possible subjects for our next VPT analysis. Included were:

Improving member involvement.

Improving communication.

Planning for future staffing needs.

OLD BUSINESS:

Organist Search: Discussion was about developing a Team including Scott Donovan.

Building Committee Update: The building committee has met with Groth Design, they will be meeting with two additional architects and present their findings to council.

Pastor Heidi's Schedule: A motion was made by John Walch to accept Pastor Heidi's proposal reducing her work hours to three-quarter time, following the guidelines presented to council. Along with this is a reduction in salary and housing to three-quarter time. This motion was second by Katie Eippert and carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Lighting Change Proposal: Unnecessary expense with current budget

Dennis's Summer Schedule: Discussion was regarding necessary hours and the possibility of cutting back hours for the summer.

Finance Committee: Need to get the ball rolling on putting a committee together. Names were discussed and these people will be contacted to see if there is interest.

Closing Prayer – Mara Schwartz