



Council Minutes December 16th, 2021

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mark Barber (Past President)
*James Newell (President)
*Kirstin Albiero (President-Elect)
*Pastor Greg Van Dunk

*Jodi Doro (Secretary)
*Scott Nielsen (Treasurer)
Rachel Langer (Outreach)
Kelly Olson (Worship)

*Brittany Lobner (Fellowship)
Joe DelCamp (Property)
Lisa Bernd (Director of Involvement)
*Jen Jacobson (Christian Education)
Melissa Schmidt (Christian Care)

(*) present at meeting

The meeting began at 7:31 P.M. with President James Newell presiding.

✓ Approval of the November 2021 minutes James motioned to approve, Kirstin 2nd, all approved.

Pastor and DI Reports

PASTOR REPORT:

No reports

DIRECTOR OF INVOLVEMENT: (Lisa Bernd)

Building: I signed the contract for our parking lot to be resurfaced & striped in the spring of 2022.

Dishwasher – Mark Barber kindly offered to look at the dishwasher. I will keep you posted on his findings.

The lights on the parking lot side of the building & ALC door are out. Current Electric will be out on Friday morning to see what the cause could be. Dave Polka thought it may be a tripped breaker. He has been fixing it but I thought it was time to have someone check it. We have had some lights going out in the new part of the building too. Of course the style for many of them is discontinued so we have had to pay a lot to replace them. It is not just replacing a bulb we are replacing the whole fixture.

Stewardship: I have been working on stewardship tabulations, recording, providing numbers to Pastor Greg & Scott, checking previous years donations to this year & much more.

Vanco: I will start the updating for the 2022 e-giving after the last draw of the year. We had some new people sign up as well as people stopping their draws. People change yearly depending how they do their taxes, do their distributions from their accounts & personal preference. We do have a few people who use PayPal.

SignUp Genius: I have made a SignUp for our Christmas services & the services on 12/26 & 1/2. I have also made the signup for our winter volunteers. I continue to update Pastor Greg's meet Pastor Greg signup.

Christmas Sing-a-Long: The sing-a-long is on Monday, December 20 at Grace. We will be catering dinner in & singing in the gathering area.

Annual Report Articles: I am still missing annual report articles. I would like them by Sunday so I can start putting together the report next week.

Coffee Hour: I have added coffee hour onto the sign up genius.

Caring Ministries: Pastor Greg & I chat on Monday mornings to talk about any people at Grace needing extra care. Pastor Greg suggested I look at an app called Note Bird for our caring ministry tracking. It is \$240 per year for two people to use the app.

Attendance Report

Attendance was discussed.



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Committee Reports

CHRISTIAN CARE: (Melissa Schmidt)

No report provided

FELLOWSHIP: (Brittany Lobner)

Pie Social- Wednesday, November 24th-Thanksgiving Eve After 7pm Worship

The Pie Social was a wonderful success and everybody seemed quite appreciative of the comeback!

Movie Night-"The Star"-Friday, December 10th

A pizza dinner was served with the movie shown shortly after. It was a fun and successful turnout with around 55 participants.

Youth Christmas Program-Sunday, December 19th

Families will attend one or the other service to keep the attendance numbers lower. Sign up early if a time preference is desired.

Taco Bar and Christmas Caroling-Monday, December 20th

Please sign up in the welcome area of the church if interested in some fun evening singing and fellowship!

Rough Outline of Future Months:

January 2022-Bingo Night-Grants are being applied for materials needed.

Spring 2022-Potential Road Rally Scavenger Hunt-Grants are being applied for materials needed.

OUTREACH: (Rachel Langer)

No report provided

PROPERTY: (Joe DelCamp)

No report provided

FINANCE: (Scott Nielsen)

November 2021 Financial Results

P&L

- Revenue was \$42k (\$8k unfavorable to budget)
- Expenses were \$42k (\$10k favorable to budget)
- Deficit of \$1k (\$2k favorable to budget)

Grace Lutheran Church Income Statement - November 2021

	November Actual	November Budget	Delta Budget	November '20 Actual	Delta Prior Year
Revenue					
Total Revenue	41,502	49,430	(7,928)	52,463	(10,961)
Expenses					
World Mission Subtotal	3,542	3,542	0	4,438	(896)
Rostered Ministry - Subtotal	11,669	21,109	(9,440)	20,183	(8,514)
Non-Rostered Staff Subtotal	12,705	11,292	1,413	11,418	1,287
Our Church Home Subtotal	11,684	14,050	(2,366)	16,764	(5,080)
Worship & Service Subtotal	2,826	2,464	363	3,331	(505)
Total Expenses	42,426	52,457	(10,031)	56,134	(13,708)
Surplus / (Deficit)	(924)	(3,027)	2,103	(3,671)	2,747
Amount To / (From) Contingency	(924)	(3,027)	2,103	(3,671)	2,747
Surplus / (Deficit) After Contingency	-	-	-	-	-



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Year-To-Date P&L

- Revenue was \$478k (\$66k unfavorable to budget)
- Expenses were \$507k (\$72k favorable to budget)
- Deficit of \$29k (\$6k favorable to budget)

Grace Lutheran Church Income Statement - November 2021

	Nov YTD Actual	Nov YTD Budget	Delta Budget	Nov '20 YTD Actual	Delta Prior Year
Revenue					
Total Revenue	478,035	543,731	(65,696)	438,955	39,080
Expenses					
World Mission Subtotal	41,208	41,208	0	36,863	4,346
Rostered Ministry - Subtotal	171,561	231,702	(60,141)	184,505	(12,944)
Non-Rostered Staff Subtotal	129,381	124,211	5,170	96,776	32,606
Our Church Home Subtotal	138,793	154,552	(15,758)	124,772	14,022
Worship & Service Subtotal	26,172	27,102	(930)	24,893	1,279
Total Expenses	507,116	578,775	(71,659)	467,807	39,308
Surplus / (Deficit)	(29,081)	(35,044)	5,963	(28,853)	(228)
Amount To / (From) Contingency	(29,081)	(35,044)	5,963	(28,853)	(228)
Surplus / (Deficit) After Contingency	-	-	-	-	-

Balance Sheet

- Cash increased \$6k in the month to \$159k
 - Contingency Fund decreased \$1k to \$87k
 - Project Funds increased \$7k to \$71k

Grace Lutheran Church Balance Sheet - November 2021

	November 2020 Starting Balance	November 2020 Ending Balance	Changes	
Assets				
Cornerstone Checking	64,225	70,585	6,360	
Cornerstone Money Market	88,264	88,276	12	
Total Cash	152,490	158,861	6,372	
Contingency Fund	88,317	87,393	(924)	November 2020 Operating Deficit
Project Funds	64,172	71,468	7,295	November 2020 Project Fund Change
	152,490	158,861	6,372	
Total Assets	152,490	158,861	6,371	
Liabilities				
Mortgage	1,740,568	1,736,821	(3,747)	
Total Liabilities	1,740,568	1,736,821	(3,747)	
		Principal Payment	3,747	
		Interest Payment	4,949	
			8,696	



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WORSHIP: (Kelly Olson)

Team met for a short meeting this month. We reviewed the details of all the special services in December.

Updates include:

Youth Christmas Program, 12/19: Dustin offered to Livestream the 10:30 service, so now both services will be Livestreamed.

Christmas Eve: Of the three services, only the 4:30 service will be Livestreamed

Christmas Day Service @ 9 AM, WILL BE Livestreamed

12/26, Sunday after Christmas One service @ 9 AM, **led by the Praise Team**

1/2, Asylum Sunday One service @ 9 AM

Concerns:

- 1) **Prelude Respect:** the team brainstormed some ideas to bring attention to the Prelude to encourage people to stop conversations and prepare for worship. Aside from chatter during the prelude, a major concern is that when the handbells are playing the prelude, some people have walked down the center aisle past Deb while she is conducting. It's not only disruptive and distracting, but also blocks the ringers' views of Deb.

Actions taken to date:

- Removed some of the chairs placed in front of the pews in the back on the right side to allow more space to people to walk behind the handbell table/ringers.
- Moved the small table, currently being used for the bulletins, pre-filled communion cups and the offering basket, closer to the worship center entrance and also ask the ushers to help direct people to stay behind the handbells and use the outside aisles to find a seat.
- Asked Arcelia to a "The Prelude" slide to the Powerpoint and put a blurb in the Grace Notes reminding worshippers that the prelude is a time to pause conversations and quietly reflect and prepare for worship.

One other suggestion from a choir member is to add a 5 or 10 minute countdown on a slide to signal the start of worship

- 2) **An observation:** Since lay readers are now leading multiple parts of the services, including the prayers and the Apostles Creed, the team suggests that they should sit closer to the front or at least move closer during music or prayer prior to their readings. This will help us to achieve our current Covid guidelines goal of keeping the services closer to 45 minutes

Other news:

Joshua Stauske has joined the Praise Team as a guitarist.

The Jubilation Choir performed their Festival of Music on 12/9 and 12/12

The handbell choir played at Lasata the evening of 12/13

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY COMMITTEE: (Jen Jacobson)

No meeting this month; no report provided.

Katie

- Sunday School
 - We've been working hard the last 3 weeks on the Christmas Program songs and skits.



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- There will not be Education Hour on Dec 26 or Jan 2. We'll return to our "regular" schedule on Jan 9.
- Christmas Program Update
 - Our Christmas Program is set for Sunday, Dec 19 at both the 8:00 and 10:30 services.
 - We will hold a "mini" Christmas Program on Thursday, Dec 16. Thanks to the Newells and Flaigs for helping us share a little bit of our program with our Thursday evening worshipers.
 - A huge thank you to our music folks (Chris Eippert, Jodi Doro and Jean Fugate) along with our parent volunteers (Adan Burgos, Sarah Newell and Jennifer Jacobson) for all their hard work!
 - I cannot tell you how excited I am to be back in-person for this program.
- Birthday Party for Jesus
 - We are hosting a casual gathering on Sunday, Dec 19 between services that will feature BINGO, crafts a movie, and, of course, snacks! Folks can come and go as they please.
 - We will be collecting "gifts" of non-perishable food items for Family Sharing at the birthday party.
- Christmas Eve Family Service
 - I am helping Greg find some youth volunteers to read at the services. I will help coordinate the readers at 3 and 4:30.
 - I will give a children's message at the 3 and 4:30 services. Greg has offered to do it for me at 6:30. (I have not been responsible for being at all 3 services in the past, and I appreciate his help with that as that is usually a lower attended service for little ones.)
 - As usual, I will also coordinate and distribute some fun "goodies" for kids as they come to worship that evening.
- All Peoples Christmas Meals
 - We took the All Peoples donations down on Dec 12. They were incredibly thankful and grateful for the support! It was great to have the help of our youth that day 😊
 - I have already told them we are "in" for doing the 50 meals again next year.
 - We have also already discussed on our end how we can improve efficiency for collecting the donations next year. It was a very labor intensive project on my end and we have some ideas on how to cut down on that next year.
 - The turkeys were a little less than we budgeted (since we didn't know exactly how much they were going to weigh until we picked them up), so we were also able to donate \$400 to their food pantry.
- Refugee Donations
 - An Adult Literacy Center Board member and Donna Harms took all of the refugee donations to Lutheran Social Services. They were grateful for the support!
- The Lord's Prayer



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- On Sunday, January 16, I will lead our 5K students and their families in a class about The Lord's Prayer. The kids will lead The Lord's Prayer during worship on February 6.
- Youth Christmas Cards
 - I created and sent out Christmas postcards to all of our Grace families (3K-12th grade) and all the families that attend our VBS program.
- "The Star" Movie Night
 - We had a smaller crew (about 55 people) for pizza and a movie on Dec 10. It was a great event for those that were in attendance.
- Thrivent Grants
 - We've continued to be overwhelmed (in a positive way) with folks coming in wanting to use up their Thrivent grants before the end of the year. Erica and I have been processing grant applications like crazy!
 - I was grateful for music, technology and fellowship folks to reach out with ideas, but I again would like to talk about a process where we continue to utilize these \$250 grants across the board, and not have Erica and I be the primary gate keepers of this "operation."
 - We've currently applied for (and mostly already received) 48 grants in 2021, for a total of \$12,000 toward events, fundraising and outreach. This is definitely something to celebrate!
 - At the craft fair, Chris Beloin (a Grace member and Thrivent rep) repeated that we are in the middle of the pack of churches for utilizing grants—some churches do upwards of \$20,000 a year—so having him speak with council at some point about new ideas and opportunities may be a good way to help everyone else understand how we can be even more effective in using these grants for all areas.
- Technology/PR Support
 - Over time, I've been working more on assisting with general Facebook posts, as I think it is important that we have a presence that goes beyond just youth events 😊. Currently, Erica, John Bernd and myself are the ones who have access to posting online (Heidi used to post as well). Fortunately, we have not had to "bother" John in several years to post anything, which is again good with all his other responsibilities.
 - A few weeks ago, John Bernd also trained me on how to make website edits. I think it is helpful to have someone on staff that knows how/is able to do this so we can do it quickly and not have to bother our volunteers for every small update. John had trained me on how to create all my own websites for Sunday School when we were virtual last year, so it was a good fit.

Other Business

- New Business
 - Annual Meeting Preparation
 - 2022 Budget – will compare pledge giving from 2021 that haven't pledged in 2022 to see if there is additional resources needed – about 30% families



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- Ann Turney Gift to church has been received – turn into a Project Fund – James made motion to set up fund; Jodi 2nd; motion carried.
- Annual Meeting January 23rd
- Will schedule normal January council meeting
- Nominating Committee – still in progress

Closing Prayer: Pastor Greg