

Grace Lutheran Church Council Minutes

February 26, 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. Pastor Paul opened the meeting with a prayer.

DEVOTIONAL: AIM Ruth

APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 2015 MINUTES

Building Committee Presentation

Motion: There will be a Congregational Presentation of the building proposal on March 22, 2014 & a Congregational Vote on March 29, 2015. Mara Schwartz made motion, Darlyne Holle 2nd motion. Motion Passed

PASTOR PAUL'S REPORT:

Church Play: The cast and crew of our play, "The Quest for the Lost Treasure of the Heart" have been hard at work since early January preparing for our March 8 play. Things are in good shape and I'm looking for a fun morning that day.

The play will be followed by two sermons on key themes from the Sermon on the Mount, the biblical text on which the play is based.

We are putting out PR pieces to encourage our members to invite people to the play.

Meeting with Pastor Steve Jerbi: Pastor Heidi and I are meeting with Pastor Jerbi this Thursday, February 26. We will discuss the Dontre Hamilton case, but more so, we will talk about ways in which Grace and All Peoples can strengthen our partner parish relationship. This will include ways in which Grace members can get involved in All Peoples Harambee Kitchen program.

All Peoples at Lenten Worship This Week: We are happy to have members from All Peoples at our Lenten meal and worship this Wednesday, February 25.

Boundary Waters: We have filled two of the three groups for this summer's high school trip. We have seventeen people tentatively signed up with seven open spots remaining.

New Members: Classes for those wishing to join Grace will be held on Sundays, March 15 and 22 with an orientation session on March 29 during the education hour. New members will be received at the services on Sunday, March 29.

Adult Mission Trip: I am working to find a site for this summer's trip. I've contacted a group called Winston Strong that is heading up the recovery work in Louisville, Mississippi, a community heavily damaged by tornadoes in 2014. I do not currently know if we will go there on the trip, but it is one possibility. I am looking at running the trip during the second half of August.

Operation Inasmuch/God's Work Our Hands Day: After the success of our Operation Inasmuch Day last September, I am going to get our planning group together soon to start working on another work day this September that ties into our ELCA's national "God's Work Our Hands" day of service.

Grace Website: John Bernd has trained me how to add material to the Grace website and I've been writing new posts for the home page of the site every week or so trying to keep the material there up-to-date on what is happening at Grace or tying it to our current worship themes.

After attending the synod's Stewardship Fair earlier in the month and hearing about effective ways to use a church's website I'd also like us to start putting testimonials up on the website from Grace members who share what it means for them to be part of Grace.

PASTOR HEIDI'S REPORT:

Worship: I developed the themes for the Wednesday Lent services. I am working on plans for Holy Week (Palm Sunday & Maundy Thursday).

I baptized Atreyu Dale Biedenbender on February 15.

I did a memorial service for Madelyn Lindsay Thelen, daughter of Mike and Lindsay (Duncombe) Thelen, granddaughter of Dick and Tam Duncombe. She was a preemie who was just 5 weeks old. I was able to be at the hospital with the family and baptize Madelyn. Please keep them in your prayers.

High School Youth Group: They had their kick-off event on February 15, and it went great! There were 8 kids there. Thanks so much to all the volunteers who organized and carried out the event- it is awesome to see the youth group re-energized. We are heading to Sky Zone on Sunday with 6 kids signed up so far.

FAITH5 & Lent Plans: I created devotionals following the FAITH5 model for the congregation. I laid everything out so that it would be as easy as possible for someone to do this for the first time. Please use them and encourage others to use them also. They follow the "God's Global Barnyard" theme, and every family got a bank to take home to collect change in. There will be a noisy offering on Easter Sunday, and the money will go to buying animals for families through ELCA World Hunger.

All People's: I am looking forward to visiting with Pastor Steve next week (the day of the council meeting) and discussing how we can better work together as partners in sharing the gospel.

Sabbatical: Haven't had much time to do a ton of leg work on this, but I am still planning from Mid-June through Mid-August, with a Family and Faith focus. I will definitely keep you updated as I figure things out. Also, if you have a suggestion for something you think would benefit Grace/me, please share!

Welcome! So glad to have Darlyne Holle, Laurie Gosselin, Sarah Gannaway, & Jim Mulholland as a part of the council! Thank you for saying yes and sharing your time and talents in this way.

Vacation: I will be gone from March 4-11.

Pastor Paul & Pastor Heidi went to APC today and spent time talking to Pastor Jerbi about ways we can work together better. Some of their ideas: APC has a new soup kitchen opening & will need volunteers, when we do our God's Hands Our Work day expand it to help in the APC area, Pastor Jerbi preaching at Grace. The adult mission trip will be in Moore, Ok at the end of June.

AIM RUTH'S REPORT:

Retreats: Retreated with the 9th Grade Confirmation Students the first weekend of the month and attended my second-last Spiritual Formation retreat the second weekend in February. Will complete this inspiring experience in May.

KFC: I met with Grace's Preteen Ministry Group last Sunday. Nine Grace pre-teens, and one friend, packed 20 care boxes to send to college students. Add the packing with pizza and a little time for games and a good time was had by all. We will be meeting in April on our own and then will participate with JYG in the ELCA Hunger Program Over-nighter, the first weekend in May. We are working on a joint activity with the JYG and High School Youth too, so kids feel welcomed as many of them get ready to move into a new group next year/

Keeping The Promise Celebration: I met with the Kindergarten students and their parents this past Sunday to celebrate their study of the Lord's Prayer. It's a good time for the students to review what they've learned about the Lord's Prayer and for the parents to be strengthened and renewed in their dedication, responsibility, and privilege to help their children grow and continue in their prayer life.

8th Grade Confirmation Service Project at All Peoples: Trudi led us and together we organized our 8th graders to attend the Saturday Work Program at All Peoples this past Saturday. Special thanks to Lisa Bernd and Julie Balistreri for driving and helping. The kids packed up 50 lunches to take, shared in an ice-breaker game and Bible study and helped in one of four special work groups. Then all shared their lunches together. It was a great time to help the kids get to know and work with each other. We also went out several blocks into the community and delivered some food to people's homes. We're so excited that some of those same kids will be coming here this week.

Lenten Worship: I'm working on writing the skit and sermon for Lenten Worship on March 4th.

Children's Messages: On Sundays, I'm using the Global Barnyard Coloring Pages and talking about the animal that will be the Lenten focus on Wednesday nights. Thanks to Pastor Heidi for putting this theme together and ordering these materials.

March Council Meeting: Please excuse me from the March meeting. I will be at daughter Carrie's in IL helping to care for my grand-children, Brooklyn and Dylan, while 6 yr. old grand-daughter, Kaylee, has urinary tract surgery in a Peoria hospital. Your prayers are appreciated.

DIRECTOR OF INVOLVMENT:

50th Anniversary Celebration: The third month of our 50th Anniversary year is starting. We will be celebrating All People's Church. This month we will be giving the people of Grace the opportunity to purchase a meal ticket to provide an Easter meal for a family of 4. The meal will consist of a canned ham, box of potatoes, 2 cans of vegetables, applesauce, rolls & pudding. The cost per meal will be \$7.00. The planning for the worship in Fellowship Hall in April will be beginning next month. We hope to have Pastor Mark Petersen preach on that special day. We are continuing to make each month better.

Women's Book Study: The women's Wednesday evening book study group is going well. In my group I have 16 women. Last month we had a discussion on the first section of the book. In March, we will be joining the Tuesday evening group for one big group discussion. I am looking forward to meeting & sharing with the other women. This has a wonderful experience for me.

New Group at Grace: In The Middle (ITM) is the new group I have started for people in between TNT & RNT. Our first gathering is on Friday, February 27. We will gather at my house. As of right now we have 27 people coming. I asked everyone to bring at an idea for another event. I have heard so many good comments already from people excited to come.

FAITH 5 Classes: I have really enjoyed being in the FAITH 5 classes with Pastor Heidi over the past 5 weeks. She really did a wonderful job teaching the class & putting together the Lenten devotional. I am hoping that we will be able to adopt more of the FAITH 5 practices into our daily life at Grace.

New Member Classes: We will be starting our new member classes. They will be March 12, 22, 29. As of right now we have 5 families that are interested in joining. I really look forward to celebrating new members joining our Grace Family.

Church Council Dinner: I have planned the church council dinner. It will be on March 22. We will again have it at Atlas BBQ. It should be a nice evening.

FELLOWSHIP:

I have nothing to report...yet!

I'm thankful for this opportunity and look forward to working with and spending time with each and everyone of you!

CHRISTIAN CARE: I also have nothing to report this month for Christian Care

PROPERTY:

First of all, thank you all for your warm welcome.

We had a furnace failure in worship prior to Sunday morning service on: 02_15_2015. With some investigation I've concluded the thermostat was not turned off or turned down too low.

Roger Goecks got the call as Pastor Paul couldn't get a hold of me. Roger came in and reset both control panels and evaporators. One furnace fired, although the second furnace did not fire at that time. Divine intervention prevailed and calmed the gremlin as the second furnace kicked in without further effort. Thank you Roger.

I got a call from Dennis and he informed me we needed several new lightbulbs in the sanctuary. I've found the bulbs in these fixtures cost \$50.00 each and we need 6 of them straight away. My thoughts as our building project goes forward, is to find ways to hold down our maintenance costs while evaluating the new fixtures for our build.

We had ants in the south corner of the vestibule. That problem self-corrected.

I understand our snowblower is in need of maintenance as well. Jim Scott and I will be looking at that issue tomorrow, the 26th.

The architects (Groth), for the building project will be sending in a HVAC engineering team to evaluate our heating, cooling, and air exchange system: 02_26_2015. I will tag along so I can better understand the future needs of our building. Hopefully this tag along will give me better insight to answer any questions that may arise in the future.

Next month we will be looking to change out some broken tiles in the sanctuary. We will make every effort not to inconvenience services.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

- Sunday School
 - Kerry Feutz will research organizations, such as All People's, that may be able to use used school supplies. If such an organization is located, we will hold a used school supply drive at the end of the school year.
- High School Youth Group
 - Holding kick off event on Feb 15th after second service
- Misc: Established goals to share at council retreat
 - Goals for CEC committee for 2015
 - Explore ways to create greater participation in children and youth educational activities.

- Work to recruit more volunteers to assist in all age groups of educational ministry.
- Develop and communicate a workable Sunday School, youth group and overall plan to continue providing great educational opportunities at Grace during construction.
- Goals for Grace Overall
 - Develop an annual plan for the year so both new and current families can easily find out who we are and what our big events are throughout the year—well in advance.
 - Encourage greater communication on the building plan to those who are not involved with all of the current conversations so that everyone is “in the know.”
 - Develop a stronger PR campaign for Grace and it’s many exciting activities (including, but not limited to, educational programs)—providing more info to the Ozaukee Press, News Graphic, community mailers, etc.
- Our Greatest Concerns
 - Our committee is concerned about the long term continuity of educational programming and who/how education related tasks will be completed upon Ruth’s retirement.
 - We are also concerned about the general long-term trend of how church is (or isn’t) prioritized among families.

WORSHIP: No Report

OUTREACH:

No extra projects have been going on through Outreach during the month of February, because of the 50th Anniversary’s monthly projects.

Nine 8th grade confirmation students, 2 drivers, AIM Ruth, and myself went down to APC on Feb 21st to participate in their KWTS (Kids Working Toward Success Program). APC had 21 students, ranging from 11-16, participating on that Sat. Grace provided 50 bag lunches, which were packed by the students prior to leaving for APC. The kids participated in a name game, Bible study, and were divided into 4 groups for individual projects. The projects ranged from cleaning spaces to painting water barrels. The group did have their lunch together at the end of the morning. It was nice to see the interaction between the kids from both churches. The kids were all invited to attend Grace’s Lenten Meal on Feb 25th.

The Feb 25th Lenten meal is to be provided by Outreach. I sent out an email to all the members that have participated in either serving the meals at St. Ben’s or APC. After they had signed up, I needed to open it to the church member s for a few other articles that was still needed.

Next month, Outreach will be assisting with the Meal Ticket Project for APC through the 50th Anniversary Committee.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

There was not much of significance in the January report. A couple items to note:

1. The Health Insurance Line will seem high for a couple reasons – first, Ruth reimbursed us for Jim’s portion of her health insurance premiums for January, but her check was not deposited until February, so does not show as an offset. Going forward, that will be caught up because we’re going to switch that to just be a deduction on her pay. Secondly, I think that the IRS Health Rebate was built into the budget also as an offset, but that won’t be realized until later in the year (assuming we still qualify for that – not totally positive that is true).
2. Our January offerings (\$33,117.00) were better than last January (\$31,899), but not up to budget expectations (\$40,392).
3. We are well past the \$300,000.00 mark on the building fund income – now up to \$332,358.00. That was due to a couple large donations right at the end of the year that did not get deposited until January.

VPT: No Report

Business Old & New:

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Endowment Committee Disbursement: Pastor Paul brought a motion for the disbursement of funds. Motion: Recommendation for \$2300 disbursement we can do: \$1300.00 Pastor Heidi's sabbatical, \$500.00 Circle of Empowerment, \$500.00 mission trip. Motion passes Pastor Heidi abstained from the vote.

Sabbatical Policy: we went over the sabbatical policy from the staff handbook

Vacation Policy review: Discussion was held on what to do with vacation time that is not used up with in the calendar year. Motion: The staff can roll over up to five (5) days to be used prior to March 1 into the next calendar year. This was second and carried.

50th Anniversary Funding: \$1000.00 to be used from the Port's bequest.

News/Notes/Sharing:

Thank you note was passed around from Dennis

CLOSING PRAYER: Pastor Heidi