



Council Minutes January 26th, 2017

IN ATTENDANCE:

*Pastor Paul Bulgerin	*Alissa Burgos (Secretary)	Peg Lade (Worship)
*Pastor Heidi Borkenhagen	Ed Eckert (Treasurer)	*Laurie Gosselin (Fellowship)
*Kerry Feutz (President)	*Pat Murack (Christian Education)	*Jim Mulholand (Property)
*Darlyne Holle (Past President)	Kelly Klug (Outreach)	*Lisa Bernd (Director of Involvement)
*Mike McGraw (President Elect)	*Valerie Salzman (Christian Care)	

The meeting began at 7:26p.m. with President Kerry Feutz presiding.

Introductions:

- Reflection led by Kerry Feutz
- Approval of meeting agenda
 - ✓ Approval of the December 2016 minutes

PASTOR PAUL'S REPORT:

Stewardship Summary: I shared some of the numbers from our fall stewardship with the members at the annual meeting. I am writing a "Good News" article that will share some of the same information. I think it is important for our members to see how many people increased their giving for 2017 to support the work of the congregation.

Since we have now tackled the big issues of the new mortgage and bringing pastoral salaries up to minimum synod guidelines, our Fall 2017 stewardship program can focus on increasing our benevolence giving so it gets back to the 10% level of our church budget. This would be about a \$12,000 increase for 2018.

"Stewardship for All Seasons" (SAS) Program: The work continues with this pilot project in which Grace is participating. We have a wrap up meeting with Pastor Mike Ward on Wednesday, January 25 to discuss our fall 2016 stewardship programs and in mid-March we meet again to learn how to conduct the special offering appeals during the year.

The plans and schedules for ours at Grace are:

April (right after Easter and tax season) – Supporting our youth on their summer trips at Confirmation Camp and also the Boundary Waters

June – A smaller effort to raise some money to help do additional PR for the church

Late Summer – To raise money to support a 2018 mission trip to Nicaragua to work with Meg Boren

For 2018 I would like one of our special appeals to be to help support young people from Grace who will be, or might be, thinking of attending seminary.

New Members: We received a very nice group of seven families or individuals on January 22. It is good to see the number of visitors we are having at Grace.

All Peoples Church Financial Situations: While I don't know a lot of details about what has happened, we have been informed by All Peoples Church that they are facing a severe financial situation. This has caused them to cut both Pastor Steve and David, their wonderfully skilled music leader, from full-time to part-time. They have also had to reduce the hours of other church employees.



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This situation, which came to our attention in late November in an email from All Peoples, led us to give a special gift to All Peoples from our Endowment Fund and also to increase our line item budget for our partner church.

As we learn more about what is happening I will share the information with the council and our members.

Adult Mission Trip: I met with representatives from Thrivent Financial to talk about a possible adult mission trip this summer. Thrivent sponsors mission trips in the U.S. and abroad. We could participate in one of these in the U.S. Thrivent members who go on a mission trip also get a reduced price for the trip. We are meeting again in early February at which time we can decide upon where we might want to go, dates for the trip and begin to publicize and recruit for it.

Meeting with Bishop Erickson: On Tuesday, January 31, rostered staff and congregational leaders from our Northern Lakeshore Cluster are meeting with our new Bishop Paul Erickson at Grace Lutheran Church in Thiensville. This is a "get to know you" meeting with the bishop.

Church Play: The date for the play will be March 19. Rehearsals began on January 8. We have around thirty members of all ages involved.

Ninth Grade Retreat: I will be on the retreat the weekend of January 27-29. Jessica Korrison is coming as the other adult chaperone.

Boundary Waters Trip: As of today we have 15 people signed up. We have reserved two groups with a total of 16 spots. We will probably reserve a third group bringing us to a total of 24 available spots.

Lesson Plans: I have spent a good amount of time this fall and winter reworking and updating the lesson plans for the eighth grade confirmation classes which AIM Ruth taught. I will have all confirmation lesson plans fully updated by the end of this year's classes.

PASTOR HEIDI'S REPORT:

Worship: I preached for and planned the 4:30 & 6:30 Christmas Eve Services this year.

Thanks to all our musicians, church staff, and volunteers who gave a lot of extra time and effort to our Christmas services. It is a team effort!

I baptized Emmett Thelen, Adeline Vaccaro & Bobby Koppa.

Lent: I ordered "Free Indeed" devotions from Augsburg Fortress. They focus on Martin Luther's Small Catechism. Pastor Paul and I will be developing Lent themes around Luther's themes and work.

We will also be participating in a Lenten service project through Lutheran World Relief- collecting items for Project Promise Personal Care Kits. These are shared with people who have been through a natural disaster or life-threatening violent situation (I assume that means refugees). Details are in February's Good News and will be promoted during the month.

Publicity/Grace Community Crew: The Facebook Ad I took out for the Christmas Sing-a-long got a lot of likes from non-church members, but that didn't translate into them coming to the event. We still had a nice crowd of 40-ish people.

Women's Groups: Lydia Circle began a 5-month study of 1 Peter. The Women's Book Groups begin Anne Lamott's "Traveling Mercies" in February.

Women's Retreat: I previewed and ordered the materials for another Spring Women's Retreat here in Grafton & for the Lydia Circle Retreat at Pine Lake. I'm so excited to be able to use our own space at Grace for the retreat



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this year- last year Pilgrim UCC in Grafton was so kind to let us use their space, but I'm hoping it will be much easier to be able to host it here. I will be inviting the women of Pilgrim to participate again and hope some of them will come. It's good to be ecumenical!

Book Study for All: I haven't forgotten the men!! I'm planning a book group, open to all, on Marcus Borg's book, "Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time." This is a challenging theological book, but written in a way that is easy to read. I'm looking for dates in either May or June. It seems like a long way off, but that is the first time I'll have available.

TNT: I'll be working on planning a couple of Spring events this month.

Additional Meeting Comments: Grace is the host site for the 2017 Stewardship Fair. This will occur Feb 10th and 11th and be attended by 60-80 people. Friday is the Banquet and Saturday will have teaching sessions on stewardship.

I will be attending a program at Marquette designed for Pastors with 5-10 year of experience. It focuses on exploring spirituality. There are 4 sessions throughout the year.

DIRECTOR OF INVOLVEMENT:

End of the Year: I spent the end of December & the beginning of January getting all of the information compiled & done for the annual report. I updated the Parochial Report for the year. I did the yearly attendance & got all of the information in the entered into the computer. This whole process takes a lot of time.

The annual report was printed in time to get it out three weeks before the annual meeting.

New Members: On Sunday, January 22, we took in 8 new member families to our Grace family. It is such a joy to be able to meet all of these families. Many of the families joined because other Grace members invited them. I hosted a new member reception for them in between the services.

Stewardship Program: I am still getting pledge cards in. I have updated the e-giving more this time that I have ever done before. We have a lot of people using it now. I will let you know next month how many people use it.

I also gathered some numbers for Pastor Paul to take to his stewardship meeting.

Property: Southport Heating & Cooling was here again for two days working on our system. They replaced the main panel. We have been good since then.

I also had to contact Braeden Plumbing to have them come & check the kitchen for a gas leak. They came in & repaired two leaks in the kitchen & now the systems seem to be working well. I have been working with Mike McGraw on the heating system. We are still having issues. He has contacted the designer of the system for some help.

Time & Talents: Believe it or not but Time & Talents are still coming in. I have everything entered. I have started to send them out to people who have requested them or need them.

Building Promotion: I contacted Grace Lutheran Church in Thiensville to get their hall rental information. I hope we are able to use their information to get our promotion started.

Regular Things: I also continue doing the weekly inset, Grace Notes, the Good News, responsibility emails, entering contributions, e-giving & the million things that come up daily.

FINANCIAL REPORT: No Report



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Committee Reports

VPT: No Report

CHRISTIAN CARE: No Report

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: No Report

FELLOWSHIP:

I'm working on Lenten Meals. Many dates are taken and a 2 more are pending. Last year Council hosted a meal. Please consider interest for this year.

OUTREACH: No Report

PROPERTY: No Report

WORSHIP: No Report

BUSINESS OLD:

- Update of Baptismal Font
 - Council continues to explore the best options to fix the problems with the Baptismal Font. Final solution is still TBD.

BUSINESS NEW:

- Reflection Schedule/Meeting Schedule
 - Dates were confirmed for each of these topics.
- Church Council Dinner and Annual Retreat (1/2 day)
 - This will be held on February 23rd from 11:30 – 3:30 and will take place in lieu of the traditional Thursday night council meeting for the month of February.
 - Sunday March 5th will be the Church Council Dinner. This will take place at Atlas BBQ.
- Committee Membership
 - A formal list was created to outline who is on each committee.
- Worship Attendance
 - Council is overall happy with the results and will continue to track these numbers.
- Open Property Projects
 - To date, these items have been put on hold. It was determined by Council we need to move forward on these items ASAP and created a plan to be sure they are completed in a timely manner.
 - Bathroom Fan
 - Bathroom Tiling
 - Worship Center Windows
 - Periodic Building Cleaning – The first of these is tentatively scheduled for 2/25. Council plans to be sure these days are scheduled quarterly.

NEWS/NOTES/SHARING:

CLOSING PRAYER: Pastor Paul at 8:26