

**Grace Lutheran Church Council Minutes**

June 24, 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.

**DEVOTIONAL:** Darlyne Holle

**APPROVAL OF THE MAY 2015 MINUTES**

**PASTOR PAUL'S REPORT:**

**Adult Mission Trip:** Our group of six volunteers from Grace leaves on Saturday, June 27 for Moore, OK. With all the heavy rains they have had there this past month we may end up doing flood relief work instead of tornado repair work. Our group will return home late on Friday, July 3. My wife and I are part of this group.

We plan to make a video of our trip to show in worship sometime later in the summer.

**Boundary Waters Trip:** We have sixteen people going on this year's trip. We leave on Friday, July 10 and return late on Friday, July 17. I am leading this trip.

**Pastoral Coverage:** I am arranging emergency coverage for the dates when both AIM Ruth and I are gone over the summer months. These dates are July 3, July 17 and August 7-8. I will contact local ELCA pastors who are willing to be on call for Grace on those dates.

**"God's Work Our Hands" Day of Service on September 13:** The first meeting of the planning team for this was held on Wednesday, June 17. This year our day of service will be held in conjunction with the ELCA's national day of service.

We are looking at projects locally, but also are talking with All Peoples Church to see what we might be able to do there, or in their neighborhood, on September 13. We are also contacting Lutheran Social Services to see if they might have projects we can undertake in our area. In addition, we are going to see if perhaps we could have a group work that day on the new Habitat For Humanity houses being built in Grafton. Habitat doesn't normally have Sunday work days, but we are going to check to see if this might be possible.

Sign-up sheets for the various work projects will be available later in July.

The plan for the day is to have one worship service at 10:00 a.m. followed by lunch for all of our volunteers. The crews of volunteers will then head out after lunch for their various work sites.

**Worshipping at All Peoples:** I have contacted All Peoples about having Grace worship there on Sunday, August 23. They think this is a great idea. It's been several years since we have done this. The initial plans are for us to not have worship services at Grace that day. Our members will drive down to All Peoples for the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

Trudi Biefeld is working with the staff from All Peoples about items they need to aid in some of their ministries that our members could donate and we could take with us that day.

**Stewardship Letter in July:** In order to get people thinking about their individual giving for 2016 I am going to send out a letter later in July, more than two months before our stewardship campaign in early October. The letter will lay out the increased giving we will need for our building program and ask people to begin to seriously consider what they will do to help us raise the funds needed for our new mortgage.

**PASTOR HEIDI'S REPORT:  
No Report – On Sabbatical**

**AIM RUTH'S REPORT:**

I'm busy getting ready to head to IL for granddaughter's birthday party and then back to Grace to leave for Confirmation Camp on Sunday so this is going to be brief.

Confirmation Camp: 12 kids and I are leaving Sunday at noon. This will be my 20<sup>th</sup> and final trip for Confirmation camp. It has always been one of the hi-lites of my year. So great to see the changes in the kids and get to know them better. We did have two who needed financial help, which worked out OK because we had 4 from the class that aren't going.

Worship: Preaching July 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> and on Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup>.

Continuing Education: I attended a day long lecture on Monday in Wauwatosa. It was on *The Holy Spirit as the Giver of Life in the Church and World Today*. It was a great presentation with some good food for thought. I will be sharing some points with our pastors.

God's Work, Our Hands: Met with other event leadership people for our first meeting.

Katie's report will cover other education information.

**DIRECTOR OF INVOLVMENT:**

**Ugandan Kids Choir:** We will not be having the Ugandan Kids Choir perform at our church in August. We did not have enough families volunteer to host the choir after having it in the Grace Notes & having Pastor Paul announce that we needed help. I had them keep us on their touring list so that maybe the next time they are here, they will be able to perform.

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration:** This month's service opportunity is going to be a fun one. We are going to try to fill 50 backpacks with school supplies for Family Sharing. I have been in contact with Jorjan at Family Sharing & she has provided me with a list of basic items that they will need. FS is so excited to be part of our celebration.

The baptismal service on June 14 went very well. Pastor Heidi had an awesome service. Plus as a bonus, we had two baptisms that morning. What a wonderful way to celebrate our special day. After the service, we had a great ice cream social. Lots of families enjoyed lots of ice cream.

Planning for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Picnic continues. I have secured a caterer. We will be having a pig & chicken roast. Planning for games, videos, invitations & much more is happening now. The Bishop will be preaching that morning.

We have lots of people from Grace signed up to help at the BB/BS Berry Big Fun Run. That should be a fun morning for everyone.

**Women's Book Study:** I will be leading a women's summer book study. We will be reading "The Chance". I have 10 women that will be part of the group.

**FELLOWSHIP:**

Fellowship is finalizing plans for the Picnic this Sunday!!!

Next we will be planning the VBS Brunch for August.

In October will be Trunk or Treat.

**PROPERTY:**

**CHRISTIAN CARE:**

I am working on building the New Member survey in Survey Monkey. I'll be meeting with Lisa Bernd next week to make sure all bases are covered and important topics are addressed while keeping the survey to a length that will promote response.

Nothing else for Christian Care this month.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:**

--Sunday School

--Will begin September 27 this year (Rally Sunday is later due to God's Work Our Hands event and Anniversary Celebration)

--At the next CEC meeting, we will begin discussing where/how SS will run throughout the year of construction

--Almost all teachers are returning for the 15/16 school year

--High School

--Pat & Chantal met with P. Heidi and Katie to discuss details of running HYPE next year as they have volunteered to do so

--VBS

--Huge thanks to all of the congregation who volunteered to take home a "wheel" and donate something to VBS. It wouldn't be a success without everyone's support! We are still in need of recyclable items such as aluminum pie pans, paper towel rolls and large appliance boxes.

--All lead teaching positions filled, but could still use help in several areas for assistants and set-up/clean-up crews.

--Registration Deadline is July 19

**WORSHIP:**

Outdoor service will be June 28, and Vince will arrange to have the sound system set up. Howard Vrankin will preach. This will likely be our last service on the south lawn.

Pastor Heidi will preach June 14, the last service prior to her sabbatical.

AIM Ruth will preach on 7/2 & 5, and again on Thursday, 7/16.

Beth Walch will preach on August 6 & 9.

Meg Boren will preach on August 27 & 30

The rest of the service will be Pastor Paul preaching.

We would like to arrange to go to All People's on Sunday, August 23.

The Affirmation of Baptism service was reviewed. The feeling was that there might have been too much packed into this service. It was suggested to streamline the service a little more next year, and consider not having a children's message. There was a consensus that it is good to have this service in the 10:30 time slot rather than in the afternoon so that the congregation can participate and support the Affirmation of Baptism

Vince gave kudos to John Conto for the great job he did with the video. A broken speaker was fixed and under warranty.

Joyce felt that the choir had a very good year. She would like to have the choir sing on June 14 and July 19.

Eryn will be working on special music for the summer services.

The use of grape juice as an alternative to wine during communion was discussed and how the logistics could be improved for those that prefer not to have wine.

#### **OUTREACH:**

Jim and I took a HUGE amount of non-perishable food donations from the One Can Plan down to APC.

With Grace attending APC church service in August, I contacted Linda Muth to see if there was anything extra that our parishioners could bring along that day besides our food donations. After speaking with their staff, she said that the kids who work in the KWTS program have back packs with supplies in them. Rubber cleaning clothes are needed for these and this would be a great donation. The food donations will be taken to APC also in August.

There is a sign up sheet posted on the Outreach Bulletin Board for serving at the meal at St. Ben's on July 14<sup>th</sup>.

I will be helping with the July 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary project as Lisa needs me to.

#### **FINANCIAL REPORT:**

A couple items to note are as follows:

1. As predicted, the pension/health insurance payment for April and May both occurred in May – so we are now caught up with that.
2. Our offerings through May slid back some - were only \$2,985.00 behind at the end of April, but now are \$8300.00 behind – pretty typical for summer months.
3. We spent \$11,492.95 in Groth Design charges in May - \$6270.00 for design fees, \$5000.00 for civil/grading consulting and \$222.95 for printing and postage. The building fund net balance increased from \$291,999.00 to \$294,344.00 over the month despite these large charges by Groth.

That is it for the month – nothing very exceptional otherwise.

#### **VPT:**

The Vision Planning Team has narrowed down what the two new youth development positions are, but wanted to provide some more clarity around what exactly we are expecting these new people and others to do. Working with Pastors and the CEC, we are putting together some RACI charts. These charts will help us to understand who is **Responsible** for doing the task, **Accountable** for making sure the task is completed, **Consulted** for ideas and direction around the task, and **Informed** about the outcome of the task. We are gathering feedback now and will work to compile them into a single chart at our next meeting on July 13<sup>th</sup>. The RACI will be presented to Council once that is complete.

**Business Old & New:**

VPT new member

Endowment committee secretary needed

**News/Notes/Sharing:**

**CLOSING PRAYER: Pastor Paul**