

Grace Lutheran Church Council Minutes

March 27, 2014

In Attendance:

*Pastor Paul Bulgerin	Nicole Michel	*Scott Donovan
*Pastor Heidi Borkenhagen	*Cindy Witt	*Katie Eippert
*Ruth Schmidt	*Lisa Bernd	*John Walch
*John Conto	*Roger Goecks	*Aimee Lempke
*Mara Schwartz	*Melanie Arndt	

The meeting began at 7:20 with president Mara Schwartz presiding. The meeting opened with a prayer.

DEVOTIONAL: Mara Schwartz

APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 2014 MINUTES: We will now have a synopsis of the monthly minutes in the Wednesday Good News.

PASTOR PAUL'S REPORT:

Capital Fund Appeal: All the hard work continues on our "Grow In Grace" appeal. Those of us on the Advanced Commitment Team have made a number of visits on members asking them to consider larger gifts to help our appeal. Jeff Newlin announced at the Advanced Commitment Gathering that most of the larger gifts needed for us to raise \$1,250,000 have been given. That is very gratifying.

The Advanced Commitment Gathering on March 18 was well-attended and an uplifting event. It gave those in attendance the opportunity to hear Jeff Newlin and to also hear Beth Walch share what she and her family are doing to support our appeal.

Our sermon series on giving continues leading up to Commitment Sunday on April 6.

Once again I give my thanks to all of the members of Grace who have so generously giving of their time, energy, creativity and resources for the "Grow In Grace" campaign.

"Operation In-as-much": This program helps congregations prepare to spend a day in their communities doing all sorts of activities to help others. There will be a training event for congregations on Saturday, May 3 to help them plan what they may want to do. I am going to be working to recruit a group from Grace to attend this session so we can plan our own "Operation In-as-much" event in early September. I think this will be a good event for our congregation.

Mission Trip: We now have six adults and about twenty teens signed up for our mission trip to Sky Ranch in early July. As I shared previously, we have received some very generous gifts that have helped cover the costs of the vans for the trip.

Mission Interpreters: On March 8 I helped lead a workshop at the Congregational Leaders Event for our synod's Mission Interpreters program. I have volunteered to be on the leadership team for this program which trains individuals to go into congregations to share with them the work of the synod and the ELCA so churches know the importance of supporting the work of the larger church.

\$1500 from the Endowment fund will be given to Megs Mission.

PASTOR HEIDI'S REPORT:

Worship: Our search for an organist continues as Cindy Wilmeth accepted a job elsewhere for more money.

Education: I'm planning an overnight retreat with the Lydia Circle for May 3-4. I'm excited to be doing this, and hope to do another retreat for all Grace women sometime in the future.

High School Youth Group: They've been going through stewardship lessons related to the capital campaign. We have some dates for dropping off the craft kits at Children's and will see what works best for most of the kids.

The Spring Brunch is planned for May 4 to raise money for their sponsor family, the Sternhagens. The kids will also be assisting the Stephen Ministers in their Lenten Meal, as the money collected will go to the Sternhagens as well.

Capital Campaign: It's very exciting to see it coming together!

TNT: We went to see "Son of God" and had a discussion about it over dinner. I'm working on planning an event for May.

AIM RUTH'S REPORT:

Sunday School: We spent the month on our special Capital Fund Appeal focus and are excited to celebrate our Children and Youth Sunday this coming weekend.

Confirmation: It's great to have so many talented youth to help out with our Lenten services, especially the skits. I'm preaching and writing the skit for only one Wednesday, since Beth did one week this year.

VBS: The resources have been ordered and are in. Early ordering is necessary so the company doesn't run out of needed books, etc. What isn't used can be returned for credit. You are welcome to stop in my office and meet Rivet, our new VBS puppet.

KFC: We had our best turn-out this year at our maple tapping event at the Eckert's. In April we are having a game event so we hope our new attendees will be back.

DIRECTOR OF INVOLVMENT:

RSI: I am part of the Leadership Team for RSI. I have been keeping track of many events that have gone on over the past months. I have sent out 4 mailers, kept track of RSPV's, and attended many meetings, dinners & events. I have worked with many people & groups at church during this time. I have set up a new giving program for pledges to this account. I am keeping track & sending in reports for our pledges. I will continue working on this for the next 3 years.

Stephen Ministry: I continue working with the Stephen Ministry program

Statements: First quarter statements will go out next week.

Good News: I have been emailing the congregation monthly the link to the Good News. I have heard positive comments on this.

New Members: We have a few families that have expressed wanting to join Grace. We will do a new member class in May or June.

Nursery: I will contact Mara (formally of Ozaukee Day Care) to see if she would be willing to be in the nursery on Easter.

VBS: I have been working with Katie Eippert on getting some preliminary information out for this year's VBS program.

PROPERTY:

Installed new sump pump in the choir alcove.

The ceiling in the choir area was repaired from the water damage.

A new water leak has occurred in the choir area, causing more damage to the ceiling.

FELLOWSHIP:

We met on March 17th to discuss upcoming events for March thru August.

For March, we planned the outing to the Milwaukee Domes on Saturday the 22nd. It was fun but there were some disappointments. About 38 people attended, but only a few kids. It was very crowded in the front lobby due to the huge farmers' market, which was open to the public for free, but that subsequently meant free admission to the Domes as well. With so many people, it was hard for us to stay together as a group and later find each other in the front lobby to then get together somewhere else for our 11 a.m. snack and fellowship. But, we decided to meet up at a couple benches in the Desert Dome, where most of us had to stand and juggle our drinks and delicious snacks (Mari provided) and put down our belongings on the floor. Another disappointment was that only 10 people took the bus, which cost \$170. But, those people gave their admission costs and a free will offering to Mari prior to arriving at the Domes, not knowing it was free admission, so they told Mari to keep all the money to help offset the cost of the bus.

For April, we are co-hosting the All Church Event (Campaign Party) with the ACE Committee on Sunday, April 6th after the second service (11:30 a.m.) till about 2 p.m. This will be a HUGE baseball-themed event with catered food for lunch, other snack-type concessions, the entertainment for all ages is a Comedy Sportz Show, baseball toss and beanbag toss games, a bounce house, and a photo opp with Bernie Brewer.

We do not have an event planned for May.

For June, we will be helping with a church-wide rummage sale scheduled for Saturday, June 14th. It is being planned by the Lamasters, Pastor Heidi and Mari, who will be recruiting lots of helpers for subcommittees for a brat fry, bake sale and pre-sale work (organizing and setting up sale items) and the sale day (running the sale and take down). More details to come.

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. We are considering outdoor (maybe water) toys for the kids as well.

We do not have an event planned for July.

For August, we are thinking of hosting a brunch after the VBS service on Sunday, August 17th.

Our next meeting will be in May.

WORSHIP: No Report

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

The Christian Education Committee did not meet in March. However, several important things have been happening with education at Grace:

1. All students (pre-school-high school) have been involved with the capital campaign. Sunday, March 30 is Student Focus Sunday and all students will be involved in the service and the children/youth donations will be revealed.
2. Due to the Grafton School District Summer School schedule, we have moved Vacation Bible School to August 11-15. We are working on spreading the word about this change. Registration will begin in early May.
3. The high school Palm Sunday brunch will be moving to Sunday, May 4th. Because of some incredibly generous donations for the high school mission trip, the money raised from the brunch will be donated to Blake Sternhagen's family to help cover travel costs for their specialist appointments. KFC will be working with the high schoolers to help with the brunch.

OUTREACH: No Report**CHRISTIAN CARE:**

Spirit Wear - I ordered Grace Softball t-shirts for the Men's softball team.

Local Advertising - I have designed (2) different postcards to be mailed out to all new residents in the Ozaukee County area. I will ask for your input as to which one we feel is better suited for this task. I have found a website that will print 50 for \$10. Very cheap price to pay for advertising!

I am attaining these addresses thru the "Homes Sold" section of the News Graphic. Once the postcards come in, I will start the mailings. I am going to track who we send them to and how many of these people visit. This way we will be able to track how this strategy works in the future.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Best Heating Bill for service they did on 02/06 and 02/07 came to \$2,364.96.

The Plowing/Salting Bill (for January services) was \$1,190.00 (Salting 12 times, plowing 5 times).

Capital Fund Drive has had contributions of \$50,025. After payments to RSI and other expenses a balance remains of \$28,298.

Year to date offering is \$64,875 with a projected budget of \$80,033. It is my understanding that the first couple months of the year have historically been at lower levels.

VPT: No Report**OLD BUSINESS:**

Organist
Outreach Chair

NEW BUSINESS:

Capital Fund Campaign Update
Devotion Sign Up

CLOSING PRAYER: Pastor Heidi