

Grace Lutheran Church Council Minutes

March 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: Laurie Gosselin

APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 2015 MINUTES

PASTOR PAUL'S REPORT:

Congregational Meeting and Vote on the Building Project: My thanks to all who worked so hard to prepare for the special meeting last Sunday. The presentations were very well done.

As I said in my email to the council this morning in response to John Walch's email, I have no problem with rescheduling the second meeting to give people time to digest the financial aspects of the project and to ask their questions about the architectural plans. After all the hard work that has been done so far I don't want members to feel that this decision has been pushed down their throats in a rushed manner.

My only concern is that a two or three week delay is not a major issue for the general contractor and their timeline for work to begin in August.

If we decide to do this we should make the decision at Thursday's council meeting so we have time to notify the congregation before Sunday.

Habitat for Humanity: At our March gathering of the Grafton clergy group a representative from Habitat talked about the beginning of work on the first of the units here in Grafton behind Sendik's. Plans are to break ground later in April with work being done on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Grace is one of the local congregations promoting this work. We will plan for a Sunday later in the spring to hold up the work Habitat is doing and we will also work to recruit volunteers to help with the work through the spring and summer.

Adult Mission Trip: We have made the commitment to send a group of volunteers to Moore, Oklahoma to help with the tornado recovery work. The dates for the trip are June 27 to July 3. Our goal is to send a group of ten volunteers. So far four people have made the commitment to be part of this group. I am leading this trip.

Boundary Waters Trip: We have filled two of our groups of eight people and are working to fill the final group. I had three more students (or their parents) tell me the weekend of March 22 that they are interested in going. If they sign up that brings us to nineteen out of twenty-four spots filled.

Cluster Assembly: There will be a gathering of the congregations in our Northern Lakeshore Conference at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 18 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Random Lake. Our voting members from Grace to the Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly in late May will be invited to attend this assembly which will focus on the work to be done at the synod assembly.

Our voting members from Grace are Darlyne Holle, Jim Schmidt, Lisa Bernd, AIM Ruth and the pastors.

Church Play: My thanks again to our nearly thirty volunteers who helped put together our March 8 play, "The Quest for the Lost Treasure of the Heart".

PASTOR HEIDI'S REPORT:

Worship: I am planning the Palm Sunday Service, which will be "The Cry of the Whole Congregation." I've been working with musicians and volunteers who will do the readings. We are having a rehearsal for the readers this Saturday. I'm also planning & preaching at the Maundy Thursday service.

I'm hoping to help the 50th Anniversary committee with plans for worship in fellowship hall on April 19.

It was an honor to do the funeral for Olga Schmidt, Jim Schmidt's mother and AIM Ruth's mother-in-law. From the funeral of a 5-week-old preemie, to the funeral of a 93-year-old great grandmother...it strikes me how broad the Word of God is and how much we need it in so many different ways.

Building Project: I am in support of moving the meeting back to give people time to have all the info and bring their comments. I truly hope this won't set our construction schedule back, but I think it would be for the good of the congregation to give it a little more time. A huge thank you to the Building Committee, to Groth Architects (especially Paul Barribeau!), and to John Walch. I thought the first meeting was great.

TNT: We have some plans scheduled: April 18, a trip to serve at All People's with their kids gardening ministry, a cookout, and some plans in the works for summer.

FAITH5 & Lent Plans: I've heard some good feedback from people on the devotional. Hopefully we get a great noisy offering on Easter Sunday and can buy many of the animals we've been lifting up. Thanks to Pastor Paul and the confirmation students for some great skits!

Lydia Circle: I'm organizing another retreat at Pine Lake Camp May 2-3. The theme is "Garden Getaway: Where women walk with God."

All People's: I attended the Partner's prayer breakfast at APC, and also a mid-day prayer service for peace they hold every week, Monday-Thursday. I hope to organize a trip down there for Grace people if time allows in the near future- maybe this is something Outreach would be interested in putting together?

Sabbatical: I'm planning to be gone from June 15-Mid August (either 11th the 18th). Some of my plans include going to extended family camp, Habits of the Heart: A Courage and Renewal Retreat with Parker Palmer, a family ministry conference (Still looking), my family reunion, probably a visit to family in Pennsylvania and Virginia, and a few other things I'm also still looking in to. As you can tell by my report, I've been extremely busy!

Vacation: I will be gone from April 7-12.

AIM RUTH'S REPORT:

Sunday School: We are studying our last lesson dealing with Food in the Bible. On April 12th, the parents of the 10 Commandment Keeping the Promise Celebration during our Sunday School time. We will complete our study of the 10 Commandments.

Confirmation: Thanks to the great student volunteers who provided our skits this Lenten season and to all the students and greeters at our Wednesday services.

Women's Brunch Bible Study: We completed our study of the book, *Do Your Best and Trust God to do the Rest* three times to watch the movie about the life of C.S. Lewis, *Shadowlands*.

Vacation and Cont. Ed.: Jim and I will be driving to see our daughter and her family in Rhode Island, leaving on April 27th. Our grandchildren have their late spring break then. Due to this trip, I am sad I will miss our April Council Meeting, the installation of friend and AIM Linda Schmidt in a congregation near the Quad Cities. From there I will travel back to the eight session Spiritual Formation Classes. I return late on Tuesday, the 5th. I have appreciated this experience very much.

DIRECTOR OF INVOLVMENT:

50th Anniversary Celebration: This month our 50th Anniversary year service we will be featuring is Meg's Mission with the focus of helping them build a dental clinic. Pat Murack will be our contact & will be getting all of the information together for the display.

The APC Meal tickets were quite a hit. We sold a lot more than we had anticipated. I am thrilled to be helping Trudi get the bags filled & down to APC next week.

I will be going to Worship Planning next week to help with the planning of the first of our special services on April 19. We had hoped to have Pastor Mark Petersen preach that morning but he was not available. We are gathering some fun artifacts to have on display for people to look at. It should be a great service.

Women's Book Study: I just love being part of the Wednesday evening book study group. Everyone seems to be having a great time. Last month I had the privilege of leading both groups. It was awesome getting to meet some of the ladies in the other group. I look forward to each meeting. I would love to lead another group this summer or for sure in the fall.

New Group at Grace: Oh My Goodness – Our first In The Middle (ITM) gathering was fantastic. We had 30 people come & socialize. Before everyone left, we had a planning session for what we would like to do & people volunteer to organize them. Our next event is May 1 – bowling at Harbour Hills.

New Member Classes: The new member reception is Sunday, March 29. We have such a great group of people joining. Some of which are already involved at Grace. Getting to meet & be involved with the new members of Grace is the best part of my job. I love seeing the new families meet new people, join a group & become involved at Grace.

FELLOWSHIP:

I continue to form my (our) team. I plan to set a date to meet with them after Easter. I've paged through notes handed down from Cindy. It's given me a good idea of the planning of events. I'm looking forward to getting started!

CHRISTIAN CARE:

Christian Care has a short report this month.

We will be welcoming four or five families this coming Sunday, March 29. There will be a new member celebration between services in the library.

PROPERTY:

On Sunday March 22nd 2015 approximately 7:35 A.M., I received a voice message from Pastor Paul saying there was no heat in worship. Upon my arrival just prior to 8:00 service I found both furnaces delivering heat to worship were up and running. My best guess is one of the electric service breakers had tripped and somebody reset the breaker. The tripping breaker could have been triggered by an extra load on the electric service. No other investigation was performed at this time. Personally, I think we have a bit of a gremlin with respect to these two furnaces and I'll keep an eye on them in the future to see if we can nail down some kind of pattern.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

--Sunday School

--The Ten Commandments Keeping the Promise event will be moved to April 12

--KFC/JYG/HYPE

--All groups will be having a joint event on April 19 at Ozaukee Skateland

--KFC will be doing a skit in church as an announcement to look for new leadership, as the current leaders are moving on as their children have outgrown KFC

--HYPE

--Great turnout for the Sky Zone event

--Hosting Palm Sunday Brunch after second service on March 29

WORSHIP:

Pastor Paul started the meeting with a prayer.

The worship on Sunday, 4/19/15, will be an anniversary service. Pastor Mark Peterson will preach. Services will be held in the Fellowship Hall. We are planning on 3 services that day, 8:00, 9:15 and 10:30. There may be some difficult logistics for the musicians which will need to be worked out.

The remaining April services have been planned. Easter sunrise service will start at 6:30 this year

The church play is all set with the debut of some very talented young people.

Holy Week services were reviewed.

Summer outdoors worship will be held on June 28. Both pastors will be out of town, so an alternate preacher must be identified. August services may be affected by new construction.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, 3/31/15, and no meeting in April.

OUTREACH:

I am pleased to report that the Grace members have bought 116 Easter Meal Tickets for APC (and we still have one more week to go)! That is more than double of what we were planning for. Due to the great response and having talked with APC, the original meal contents were enhanced. A second 2# canned ham will be included and some kind of treat will be added. Lisa and I will put together the meals on the 30th and we will deliver them on April 1st. The remaining amount of money will be donated to their Food Pantry.

A sign up sheet and articles will be in the upcoming Grace Notes and Good News for our next St. Ben's Meal which is on April 15th

FINANCIAL REPORT:

A couple items to note are as follows:

1. The Health Insurance Line still looks a little high because we do not yet have an IRS Health Rebate (and won't for a while, but hopefully we will still qualify for that) – that is the same as in the January report. However, we have 'caught up' on Ruth's reimbursement for Jim's portion of her health insurance premiums, and that will not be an issue going forward, since we are now deducting that from her pay.
2. Ruth has spent her entire Continuing education budget already (\$507.00 spent - \$500.00 budget).
3. The pre-teen group has spent it's entire budget also - \$238.00 spent of a \$200.00 budget. That is somewhat deceiving, however, since the majority of that expense (\$201.70) was for college 'care package' contents and mailing costs, and there was \$77.00 collected toward that, which was credited to their specials account – which has not shown up yet since it was in a deposit dated March 1st.
4. Gas and electric shows low (\$1260.00 paid, plan is to be at \$2633.00 so far) because the bills are coming late from WeEnergies – we have only paid the January bill (which came in February) so far, with the February one to be paid in early March.
5. Our offerings through February (\$68780.00) are very close to those through February last year (\$68,875), and have slipped further behind budget expectations (\$80,783).
6. Building fund income rose from \$332,358.00 in January to \$350,056.00 at the end of February (an increase of \$17,698.00 in February).

VPT:

The team reviewed survey responses from the office staff that looked at how their current duties currently assist AIM, areas with opportunities for improvement, and ways that they feel they could better use their talents to serve the church.

Based on the survey responses, the team identified the potential need for an office manager to not only oversee office personnel, but to also take on additional administrative duties currently performed by AIM. The team was able to put together a short list of job responsibilities for this position.

The team also identified the need for a "creative" position to oversee volunteers for Sunday school, youth, and getting curriculum.

Next month, the team will continue to define the job descriptions for both the administrative and the creative positions and meet with the Pastors before presenting the final report to council.

Business Old & New:

Building discussion – A motion was made by Trudi Biefeld to change our voting date to 4/19/15. This was second by Katie Eippert and carried.

News/Notes/Sharing:

CLOSING PRAYER: Pastor Heidi