



Council Minutes March 23rd, 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)	*Lisa Bernd (Director of Involvement)
*Darlyne Holle (Past President)	*Kelly Klug (Outreach)	
Mike McGraw (President Elect)	Valerie Salzman (Christian Care)	

The meeting began at 7:25 P.M. with President Kerry Feutz presiding.

Reflection led by Alissa Burgos

- ✓ Approval of meeting agenda
- ✓ Approval of the February 2017 minutes

Pastors and DI Reports

PASTOR PAUL'S REPORT:

Special Giving Appeal for Youth Ministry: I attended the latest planning meeting for the "Stewardship For All Seasons" (SAS) program on March 15. At this meeting we discussed how to plan and conduct a special appeal. We have three of these tentatively planned for 2017.

The first one will be held in April to raise funds to support our youth who go to Confirmation Camp, confirmation retreats or on our summer high school trip. This year that is the Boundary Waters. I have sent a tentative goal of \$7,500 for this special appeal. This would enable us to financially help everyone going on one of these church youth experiences in 2017 and put some money aside for next year as well. We can then see if we can increase our budgetary support for youth ministry in 2019 and beyond.

I have written up the tentative plans and timeline for this appeal and shared it with our youth ministry leaders and the council presidents. I will briefly share the plans with the rest of the council at our meeting.

Adult Mission Trip: After several meetings and phone calls with representatives from Thrivent Builds and promoting a possible trip among our Grace members I have decided to not move forward with an adult mission trip in 2017. There does not seem to be much enthusiasm for it at Grace this year and the timing of Habitat For Humanity training I would be required to take would be difficult for my schedule. This is something I'll revisit for 2018.

Nicaragua Mission Trip: On the other hand, the adult forum this Sunday, March 19, will start initial discussions about a possible Grace mission trip to Nicaragua in early 2018 to work with Meg Boren. I fully support this trip and am hoping that I can go on it. Our special offering appeal in August of this year will be to raise money to help those who want to go on this trip. Meg has said, on several occasions, that the most important thing we can do at Grace is to send people to visit her so they can come back here and be voices of support for the Circle of Empowerment.

Church Play: The play is this Sunday, March 19. Over thirty people are involved and they've all done very good jobs in the two months we've been rehearsing the play. The highlight this year for me is how many young people we have involved! That's a good sign for the future.

Boundary Waters Trip: We have filled all twenty-four spots for the trip. This is the earliest we have filled up a Boundary Waters trip. The dates are July 19-26.



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Confirmation Sunday Date Change: We've moved Affirmation of Baptism Sunday from May 21 to May 14. The reason for this is that our daughter Hannah is graduating from UW-Milwaukee the morning of Sunday, May 21 and I want to be at her graduation ceremony. I've checked with all of our ninth grade families about the dates change. Only one has an issue and I am working with them to see what we can do.

PASTOR HEIDI'S REPORT:

Lent: There has been a great response to the Personal Care Kit requests. Lutheran World Relief will be sending a semi to pick up churches in our area in October- so we will hang on to them until then and get them all assembled over the summer. It's nice to have lots of storage area now to hold them.

Holy Week: I'm preaching and planning Palm Sunday and Easter services this year. I've begun work on this and coordinating with our musicians so that we have special services that honor Jesus and lift up the importance of these days in our faith.

Sculpture Dedication: I've been in contact with Andy Schumann, the artist who created the bird sculpture and the fireplace sculpture. I've got write ups for plaques to put near each one, describing their meaning and tying it into the Bible. I'll share the texts with you at the meeting.

We will be dedicating the fireplace sculpture on Palm Sunday, so our worship will begin out in the gathering space, around the cross, and then we will all process in with our palm branches.

Andy is hoping to join us for at least one of the services that day.

Women's Retreat: There are 12 people signed up. I'm busy gathering supplies and getting ready to lead it.

I'm also taking Lydia Circle to Pine Lake to do the same retreat May 6-7.

TNT: I decided to make the Shack viewing open to the whole congregation- but I will also promote to TNT.

Crossways Board: I was asked to join the Board of Directors for Crossways Camps, and was elected at their Annual Meeting on March 4. I'll be attending meetings quarterly and working on a sub-committee as well. I'm excited to serve this important ministry, and look forward to getting the people of Grace more involved as well.

DIRECTOR OF INVOLVEMENT:

Building Signage: I have contacted Debbie Walters, a member at Grace, to make signs for all the doors at Grace. Debbie & her family own Central Engraving & will be making the signs for us. I have a meeting scheduled to go over what we need on Wednesday, March 22.

Women's Book Study: This month both book groups met together because of Lent. We read & discussed two more sections of our book. It was nice to be with the women in the other book study & get to hear what they like about the book. Next month we are back to our regular evening.

Training: I have been training all the people who have signed up to do new responsibilities at Grace. It is awesome to have people signing up to do different things at Grace.

I also set up two multimedia room training sessions for the members that signed up to help. Scott Steffen led our first training & John Bernd is leading our second training.

I have also been training the Lenten meal groups on how to use the kitchen.

Spring Salad Supper: I scheduled a spring salad supper planning meeting for April 4.



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Prayer Chain: I updated the prayer chain list & emailed it to all the members of the chain. I do this each year for the group.

Photo Directory: Valerie Salzman & I met with Gerry Milton from Moments & Memories to do our photo directory.

Easter: I ordered Palm Branches, contacted Liturgical Arts to let them know they were coming, & ordered all the Easter bulletin covers.

Synod Assembly: I registered everyone for the synod assembly & made hotel reservations for the group at Country Springs Hotel.

Property: I had to contact Southport Heating & Cooling. They will be coming in again this week to tweak the system.

The men's room tile is in & the walls have been painted. I ordered the partition for the men's room last week. They should be here in early April to install it. After that, the bathroom should be ready to use.

The dishwasher was not working correctly. I contacted the contracted company to have it fixed. It was not heating properly. Katie & I also contacted Fein Brothers, who we purchased the dishwasher from, to have it on record that we were having issues with it.

The light switch in the hallway by the church office is not working. I contacted Current Electric to set up an appointment for them to come out & fix it. They should be here on March 21.

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.

Open Issues

- Attendance Reports.
 - Council reviewed the attendance report from 1/1/17 to present.
 - Everyone is pleased with the attendance numbers.
- Personnel Committee Update
 - The committee developed an updated background check to be used effective immediately.
 - It was decided to begin enforcing three year terms. There will be a phased approach to turning over the committee so some experience can remain while new members get adjusted.
 - One member has already resigned and two more members have already agreed to step down. Council has begun looking for three new members. The first new member found is Mike Moran.
 - There was a motion to appoint Mike Moran to the Personnel Committee effective immediately.
 - The motion was seconded and approved with 10 approval votes.
 - The committee is also in the process of exploring the current employment laws surrounding overtime with salaried and nonsalaried staff.
 - Lastly, since Erica has resigned from her cleaning role, the committee is exploring job descriptions and how to best fill her role.
- Erica: Expectation regarding degree of participation in VBS.
 - Erica would like to be a part of VBS but it does not fit her job description.
 - Council will continue to discuss how and if it's appropriate to incorporate her into VBS.
- Eryn: \$ funding request – \$300 Augsburg Music Clinic – 2 night Chicago.
 - Council decided this should come from the gifts and memorial funds given to the choir.
- Advertising
 - Council discussed who will be willing to take over Grace's advertisement. In the past it had been handled by Christian Care but it's beginning to be too big of a job.



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- Discussion was had to form a new advertising committee which would be a sub-group of Christian Care. Council will ask people to join and will put the request in Grace Notes
- Nursery
 - Council is exploring the option of having a paid person in the nursery for big events such as Christmas, Easter, the play, etc.

Committee Reports

CHRISTIAN CARE:

The committee is meeting in the coming weeks to pick out apparel and schedule the photo directory for August.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

CEC Meeting: March 9th 7pm

4K Class: Aid in 3K, 4K and 5K for next year

Sunday School Ending time next year: Discussed if confirmation and last day of Sunday School on the same day will work - we will see as it will happen this year

Grace Play Group: It was voted to be discontinued due to lack of people coming

Curriculum: \$350 a year of good curriculum that covers a variety of topics. Thank you Katie for identifying a good source

Fundraising: Discussed various fundraising ideas. Erica is planning on getting a committee together for the summer to coordinate fundraising.

FELLOWSHIP:

Fellowship is exploring the idea of doing a Martin Luther event. There is a speaker who comes in dressed as Martin Luther and gives a presentation as Martin Luther.

They are also looking into having a religious items rummage sale.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The updated monthly report was discussed. Income was down for February. The grounds & maintenance numbers were high due to more salt/snow work than expected. Other than that, we are on track with the budget.

OUTREACH:

Committee chair gave an update on what she is working on. Working on the remaining Lenten Meals. Also, did a delivery to Family Sharing.

PROPERTY: No Report

WORSHIP: No Report

Other Business

Closing Prayer