

## Grace Lutheran Church Council Minutes

November 20, 2014

### In Attendance:

\*Pastor Paul Bulgerin

\*Pastor Heidi Borkenhagen

\*Ruth Schmidt

\*John Conto

\*Mara Schwartz

\*Cindy Witt

\*Trudi Biefeld

\*Lisa Bernd

\*Roger Goecks

\*Melanie Arndt

\*Aimee Lempke

\*John Walch

\*Scott Donovan

\*Katie Eippert

The meeting began at 7:20p.m. With President Mara Schwartz presiding. Mara also opened the meeting with a prayer.

**DEVOTIONAL:** Scott Donovan

Building Committee Presentation – Mike Moran and Jim Schmidt

Building Project Budget Discussion/Decision – A motion was made by John Walch to approve Catalyst as the General Contractor for our building project, Roger Goecks second the motion and it was carried with one abstention.

A motion was made by Roger Goecks to set a target amount of 2 million as a guideline amount for the building committee to give Growth Design and Catalyst to use for our building project, this was second by Melanie Arndt. After discussion, John Walch moved to amend Rogers motion and set the amount at 1.7 million, this was second and carried, with one abstention.

Grace 2015 Budget Preliminary Discussion

APPROVAL OF THE **OCTOBER 2014** MINUTES:

### **PASTOR PAUL'S REPORT:**

**Stewardship Update:** To date the pledges that have been turned in show an increase in giving of just over \$20,000 from 2014.

There are still pledges that have not been returned. A letter is going out to these members this week asking them to return their commitment cards as soon as possible.

We won't have a final estimate yet on our 2015 anticipated giving until we receive these pledges.

We also have to come up with a number for non-pledged giving and other giving before we arrive at our final estimate for 2015 giving. We will have a good number to work with in time for the December council meeting when we finalize the 2015 budget.

**Special Gift:** Last week we received a gift of \$29,000 from the trust of Ralph and Gladys Port. They both died in recent years and were gracious enough to remember Grace in their wills. The church council will need to decide what the best use is for this money. The letter from the Ports' attorney said that the money is designated for the "mission of the church".

**Nominating Committee:** We continue to look for candidates for president-elect and Fellowship Committee chair. Our candidate for Property Committee chair, Jim Mulholland, who is considering the position, will attend Thursday's council meeting to see how the council meeting is run.

**Stephen Ministry:** A meeting was chaired by Beth Walch on November 10 with seventeen current and past Stephen Ministers and Stephen Leaders to discuss the future of our Stephen Ministry program. A number of our long-time Stephen Leaders have recently retired from the program and we only have seven Stephen Ministers currently available for care receivers. Just a few of them actually have care receivers.

The meeting was to solicit thoughts and suggestions for where we will go with our program. We have three Stephen Leaders who are willing to continue working to make it successful, but do not have any current candidates to receive Stephen Leader training or any candidates to be trained as Stephen Ministers.

**Endowment Committee:** Steve Janssen has submitted the third quarter 2014 report which shows the balance of Grace's endowment fund is at \$164,447 which is up from \$159,156 at the end of 2013. The committee is seeking one new member. Bob Dries has been raised up as a good candidate to serve on the committee. Steve will talk with him to see if he is interested. The church council would then approve him to serve on the committee.

The committee will let the church council know if it feels we will make distributions from the fund at the end of 2014.

#### **PASTOR HEIDI'S REPORT:**

**Change in Hours:** Still adjusting to this and struggling to get things done and add new things in the time I have.

**Worship:** I have put together special services for an Advent Hymn Sing on November 30 and also a Christmas Hymn Sing on December 28 (one service that day at 9 am). I'll be preaching Christmas Eve and have met with the music leaders to plan out the service and special music for those services.

**High School Youth Group:** The current leaders met and had some great ideas to help bring some new life into our youth group. We are going to try some new formats for class/lessons. We're also going to have the kids come up with a name for the group, and also look at doing a community service project that would get other high school kids involved (like a dodge ball tournament at the high school that raises money for a charity). I'm hoping to get a group of kids together to go to the synod youth gathering this winter up at Blue Harbor Resort in Sheboygan.

**FAITH5:** Lisa and I have been in touch with some families, couples and singles at Grace to be part of a "test" group for the FAITH5 method of doing faith in the home (1-Share, 2-Read, 3-Talk, 4-Pray, 5-Bless). We will introduce the program to them on November 30, have them try it out for 2 weeks, and get feedback and testimonials. We have ordered the materials for the class that goes deeper into this "Holding Your Family Together". That will begin January 18 and go 6 weeks. Everyone is invited to this and it will be the Adult Forum for this time. Please consider coming and promote it with the groups you're involved in. People will have to order books for about \$12.

**Continuing Education:** I will be going to a class, "The Art of Conflict Transformation" in early December in Madison. The goal of the class is to help us engage conflict in a way that facilitates "both/and" thinking & "win-win" situations. I think this will be really useful and will share with you what I learn.

I also invited the Worship Planning Team to a synod workshop on Worship, this Saturday, November 22. Scott & Debbie Donovan, Joyce Laloggia, Eryn Durlam & I are attending, however Eryn and I may have to leave early because of Gladys Raminger's funeral that day.

**New Women's Group:** I'm working on plans for this, looking at starting in January. There will likely be more than one group if I can find another leader. There are women of all ages interested, but I'd

like to have some kind of groupings for this so that women of the same ages can share about where they are at in life and also choose relevant topics to learn about. The first book we read will be "Carry On Warrior: Thoughts on Life Unarmed" by Glennon Doyle Melton, a popular Christian Mom blogger.

**Stephen Ministry:** The Stephen Ministers & Leaders past and present met, led by Beth Walch and Dan Ernst, to discuss the future of the ministry. Many felt strongly that we should continue and renew our efforts to the program. We're working to promote the program more and looking for more people to step up, recommit and lead.

**TNT:** We are having a Hot Chocolate Party at my house, and I will be promoting the "Holding Your Family Together" class with the group. This would be a great study for many of these people.

### **AIM RUTH'S REPORT:**

**Sunday School:** The kids are doing a good job of bringing food in on the first Sunday of the month for our Twocan project.

Mari Goecks is leading Grace members in an Advent Wreath project on Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Sunday School Christmas Pageant:** I'm meeting with fourteen 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders once a week for special parts practice for the Pageant. Under Eryn's direction, the 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders will be singing two songs and the 3K-K kids will be playing one song on the colored bells and singing another. This year's pageant is ***Comfort and Joy for the Children of God***. I am working on putting together that service to give to Ed soon.

The Christian Ed. Committee is meeting between services this Sunday to work on games and crafts for the *Shower For Baby Jesus*, between services on Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>.

**KFC:** I worked on publicity and gathered pumpkins from a couple of stands for the Kids For Christ Pumpkin Destruction event. I was out of town and unable to attend. Thanks to the Eckerts who held this event at their home and made a giant pumpkin slingshot. Everyone there had a great time.

**Funeral:** After 25 years together at Grace, I look forward to participating in the celebration of the life of Gladys Raminger on Saturday.

**Spiritual Formation Class:** My November Spiritual Formation Class in Dubuque gave much food for thought. It focused on using Christian Discernment, not only on a personal level, also on a Church Council and Congregational Level. Could be a good topic for us to discuss, when we're having a slow agenda month. ☺

### **DIRECTOR OF INVOLVMENT:**

**Trunk or Treat:** Trunk or Treat went wonderful. We had about 65 people, 10 decorated trunks, 100 served hot dogs plus lots of bouncing in the bounce house. The day was beautiful day & lots of fun. A big thank you to Korey Gierach for all of her help & hard work to make this event a success.

**Time & Talents:** I have finished putting together all of the time & talents packets. I just got my first batch in after Sunday's services & will start to update everyone's profiles. I will start working on that in the beginning of December.

**Counters:** I have all of the counter positions. Two of our new counters have started in November & one will start in January. Now that they have all been filled, I will make a new counter sheet so that all of the counters have that information. I am also going to ask some of the former counters if they would be willing to on a sub list to fill in if needed.

**2015 Pledge Cards:** I put together all of the pledge card packets & got them ready for distribution. I have been entering the pledges & updating Pastor Paul. We also had a few new families sign up to use our e-giving program.

**Women's Casserole Supper:** Monday evening was the women's casserole supper. We had 38 women attend. Kandy Gibson & her daughter Chelsea were our presenters. Kandy is the Director of the Adult Literacy Center & she also is a potter. We all had the opportunity to purchase & make a clay tile. Kandy will prepare them & fire them for us. It was a great evening with lots of good fellowship & food.

### **Annual Reports are Due DECEMBER 21<sup>st</sup>!**

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration:** We had a great meeting on October 29. We mapped out most of our anniversary year. We have a lot of fun things planned out. We have a meeting on Wednesday, November 19 so I will be able to share more information at the meeting.

### **PROPERTY:**

Furnace was repaired for the Fellowship hall.

A new wand is being ordered for the back pack vac that Dennis uses, as the current one has broken beyond repair.

As Council can see by the financial report I have about \$3,800.00 left in by budget. This should last through the end of the year. With luck and barring any major furnace repairs we should make it, even with lots of snow and salting.

### **FELLOWSHIP:**

We will be hosting the Thanksgiving Pie Social on Wednesday, November 26<sup>th</sup> after the 7 p.m. service. There will a variety of pies, coffee and milk served.

For December, we will be assisting the Christian Education Committee with the Shower for Jesus on Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> by taking care of the snacks.

Our next meeting will be this Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: No Report – Next meeting in January**

### **WORSHIP:**

Pastor Paul's report: Special music for Advent and Christmas is being arranged. Performance reviews of the musicians will be held in the next month. Overall, our worship attendance is ahead of last year. The Service of Remembrance went well with 35 people attending. John Conto's new video was outstanding. Eryn will be more active in hymn selection for the traditional services. A play is planned for 2015, 'The Quest for the Lost Treasure of the Heart.'

Pastor Heidi's report: Courtney Bernd is planning to preach on Sunday, January 4, 2015. Quiet Sacks are being renamed and updated. It would be nice to find a way to recognize the time and efforts of the musicians in the Praise Team. Music Ministry Workshop on November 22 is being held at St. John's in Brookfield, and several people are interested in attending.

**December services:**

Week 1: Second week of Advent.

“Serving in God’s Diner” “Christmas Around the World” Pastor Paul preaching. Nola Hicks baptism at 10:30

Week 2: Third week of Advent. “The Spirit of the Lord is Upon Me” Pastor Paul preaching.

Week 3: Pastor Heidi preaching. “Home for the Holidays...and every day”

Christmas Day: Pastor Paul preaching. “All Wrapped Up for Us.” Children invited to worship in pajamas.

Sunday, Dec 28: Pastor Heidi preaching. Christmas Hymns and special music.

Other discussion: Running out of room in the choir area due to Praise Team instruments. Request less noise in the worship area between services when choirs are rehearsing.

**OUTREACH:**

Not too much new to report this month.

The coat and mitten drive continues with a total as of the 13<sup>th</sup>: 27 children and 16 adult coats, 19 scarfs, 30 pairs of gloves or mittens, and 32 hats collected. AIM Ruth is taking the larger adult coats to Reformation in Milwaukee instead of Family Sharing, (as APC only wants smaller coats at this time.)

Pastor Heidi will also be taking down to APC the huge amount of nonperishable food. The overflow from the Yellow Bin is now in the conference room by the offices. A big Thank You to Pastor Heidi for finding storage space and taking the donations to APC.

The December project is the collection of small Bingo type prizes for Lasata. The article was placed in the announcements and items are already being donated.

Ideas are needed for future projects.

The next opportunity to serve at St. Ben’s will be January 13<sup>th</sup>.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

1. Joyce ordered several pieces of music – in excess of the \$90.00 budget she has in the Senior Choir Music account (#36). I will transfer that charge to the specials account ‘Choir Music’ (Account #609) to cover this. The current balance in the specials account is \$1149.00.

2. I did a transfer of \$30,000.00 from our checking account into our Money Market account on October 7<sup>th</sup>. The rationale for that is that we have had (through October 7<sup>th</sup>) net ‘Grow in Grace’ income of \$31,739.70 since my last transfer into there on July 29<sup>th</sup>. (There were no ‘Grow in Grace’ expenses charged between July 29<sup>th</sup> and the end of October.) The balance in the Money Market account as of the end of October is \$155,165.20. Of that, \$165.20 is interest.

3. We had another furnace repair this month – one that we have not had to fix since I can remember. It is the one that heats Fellowship Hall – the repairs took place on 10/23/14 – Best Heating did them, replacing the ‘Pilot Burner Assembly’. Total bill from Best was \$495.00 – but that will not appear in the October summary since it was paid in November.

4. Total YTD income is \$368,640.00 – which is \$34,277.00 behind budget to this point, but \$17,760 short of expenses.

5. I increased Eryn’s salary in October as directed by Mara. This will be in effect through April, and then in May, I will revert back to the lower rate (of course taking into account any increase she may receive between now and then). This change is to account for additional time she spends with the Sunday school kids during the program year.

**VPT: NO REPORT**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

See Above

**NEW BUSINESS:**

See Above

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Mara Schwartz