

Grace Lutheran Church Council Minutes

October 22, 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.

DEVOTION: Trudi Biefeld

APPROVAL OF THE **SEPTEMBER 2015** MINUTES

PASTOR PAUL'S REPORT:

Stewardship – I will go through the first batch of commitment cards that came in last weekend and have some preliminary numbers to share with council on Thursday night.

I plan to send out a letter to some parents of our Sunday School children who have their children in SS, but who are not financially supporting the church, encouraging them to make a financial contribution for 2016. It will be tactfully worded and upbeat in nature.

I am looking for some volunteers from council to help me make some follow-up phone calls the first week of November to members who have not yet turned in their commitment cards. I will provide a phone script and the names of those to be contacted. All those who will be called are members who are active givers, but who haven't turned in their cards yet.

Nominating Committee - Thanks to Katie Eippert who has agreed to serve another term as the chair of the Christian Education Committee. The Nominating Committee is meeting again on October 25 to start work on finding people to serve as president-elect and the chair of the Worship Committee. We have identified people for both positions with whom we will speak.

Adult Forum on Sundays – Now that construction has begun we will have to assess whether or not we will be able to have the adult forum on Sunday mornings. We've lost the library and will need to see what space might be available from week to week.

New Members – The staff will meet later this week to discuss when we will have classes for new members and where they will be held. We'll have to move them off of Sunday mornings and hold them during the week, most likely on Tuesday nights. All those who have expressed an interest in joining Grace will be contacted about them.

Holy Communion Preparation Classes – I will be leading these sessions on Sundays, November 1, 8 and 15 for our fifth graders and any other young children interested in receiving the sacrament.

Couple Soliciting Funds in Church Parking Lots – We have been informed by the staff at St. Paul and St. Joe's that a Hispanic couple has been soliciting funds from members in their church parking lots after services. They have contacted other congregations in Grafton about this. This has caused some disruptions at both churches. We have not seen them here at Grace, but should they come here we will need to inform our members to not give them cash directly, but to send them to the church staff so we can handle this properly. I will put an article in the "Grace Notes" about this.

Our New “Digs” – The staff has now moved into our trailer for the duration of the construction. We’ll let the congregation know where to find us.

PASTOR HEIDI’S REPORT:

Worship: Paul, Eryn and I chatted about some ways to use the ELW in the future. We will be looking at introducing some new liturgical pieces for 8 am in January. I’m trying some new ways of preaching- I mixed it up this past Sunday and got a lot of good comments. I put together the FAITH5 Sermon Series, which began last week. Every week there will be a bulletin insert with FAITH5 instructions and daily Bible verses. There will also be some opportunities for some fun ways to experience FAITH5 in worship in the coming weeks.

HYPE Youth Group: There has been some great attendance for youth group this fall! That is nice to see. The leaders are working on finding a date for rock climbing in the next couple months.

TNT: We are signed up to bring lunches down to All People’s for the Kids Working To Succeed program this weekend, so I’m coordinating volunteers for that. Brian and I are hosting another Hot Chocolate Party December 18, and I’m working on some other events, too.

Sabbatical: I really enjoyed sharing what I did with the congregation this month. I thought attendance was good for both sessions. Thank you again to Grace for the wonderful gift of sabbatical! I will cherish the memories always.

Women’s Book Group: We began our study of “Bad Girls of the Bible” this month. I think it will be very educational.

Thank you!: It was so nice to be remembered for clergy appreciation month! It is a joy to be partners in ministry with the people of Grace. I will really enjoy having some guilt-free pampering at the nail salon!

AIM RUTH’S REPORT:

Sunday School: We have begun our Bible/Memory Station focus on the Apostles Creed, gathering with parents to study God as Father. This is one of our *Keeping the Promise* units. Steven Beloin will be leading the Good News Station for the 4th – 6th graders next Sunday, as I will be at my daughter’s in IL. This is helpful for me and a good experience for Steven as he gets ready for his internship in January.

Confirmation: Big thanks to Ralph Becker who has come back to work as a Guide with our four 7th grade guys. Ralph brings years of experience and great faith to share with this group. Thanks be to God.

KFC: Cindy Witt, Steven Buchman and Mari Goecks are doing a super job of organizing and helping lead our preteen ministry group. The group that met on Sunday had a super time. Several of the kids will help lead games for Trunk or Treat on Sunday.

Sunday School Christmas Pageant: Eryn and I have met several times as we plan our Sunday School service for Dec. 20th, at both services. We are doing a more traditional service featuring the Christmas story from the Gospel of Luke. In between readings, will be special music and Bethlehem characters will share their thoughts with the congregation. The Holy Spirit (dove puppet) will guide us through the story. Eryn will be busy leading songs by the 1st – 6th graders, 4K & 5K classes will play colored bells and the 3yr olds will also sing a song. The jubilation choir will share a song with us and the bell choirs will also play several songs. Worship will include Holy Communion. I will be writing the service in the next couple of weeks and practices will begin in the middle of November.

Ideas for Advent Children's Message and Plans for Children's Candlelight Service: Both of these are on my agenda for the weeks ahead.

AIM Retreat: I attended a great AIM retreat with other AIMs from the synod. They are a great group of caring people and we can learn so much from each other. The main presentation for this year was an in depth discussion on a book by Bonhoeffer. We also watched a movie about his life.

A Moving Experience: I spent many hours traveling down memory lane this month as I went through, pitched and packed up resources from the last 26 years. It was a treat to look back at the names of all the students who participated in things like Sunday School Christmas Pageants and Confirmation Camps. I treasure all the Continuing Education I was involved in and the great number of volunteers I worked with. Packing up, when I leave, will be much simpler because of this pack-up, that's for sure.

Knee Replacement: I will have right knee replacement on October 30th. I will be out of work for at least a week and we'll see how things go from there. I'll be working a lot on the Sunday School Christmas Pageant and Children's Candlelight Service from my home while recuperating. I will have therapy on Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays every week.

Special Thanks: Many thanks to Grace for remembering rostered staff with a gift card and to John, for his kind words last Sunday. My gift card is for the movies so Jim and I will enjoy going to movies more than ever.

DIRECTOR OF INVOLVMENT:

Service of the month: Milwaukee Rescue Mission. This month our service is MRM. They are a new service for Grace. As part of the 50 Anniversary planning, we thought it would be good to look toward the future & pick some new groups to partner with. We have collected numerous personal care items & a lot of Thanksgiving Meal Tickets to purchase a meal for a person in need.

Women's Book Study: Pastor Heidi & I started our new Women's Book Study this month. I had 13 wonderful women join me in reading Bad Girls of the Bible. I am looking forward to another fun book study.

Stewardship Mailing & Packets: I prepared & mailed the stewardship letter for the congregation. I worked with the printer to get our annual stewardship cards made. Then I prepared the congregational stewardship packets. After the first Sunday, I could combine 4 boxes down to two boxes. The ones that were not picked up will be mailed next week. I will be entering the pledge cards this week.

Trunk or Treat: This Sunday is Trunk or Treat! Lots of kids are signed up for this fun day. With the changes at church I am still not sure how it is going to be set up yet but I will know more soon. We will be having lunch, decorating pumpkins & games. I spoke to the kids from KFC last Sunday about Trunk or Treat. They will be providing us with a game & some help with T or T. We also have two confirmation students helping also.

Music Survey: I prepared & mailed the music survey to present & past music group members.

JLMS Bomb Threat: On Monday, October 5 my day started very different than it usually does on a Monday. At 8:40 a.m. I was greeted by 550 students & staff from John Long Middle School. They had been evacuated for a bomb threat & we are their evacuation site. I must say the system worked great. We had everyone safe in the worship center & fellowship hall within 10 minutes. The staff & students were great. Jim Schmidt came over to help me & was able to put on movies in both locations. That was the best. Pastor Heidi & Aimee Lempke both came to help me. I cannot thank them enough. After three hours here, the students were safe to return to school. Not one second

after the students left, did the school district send in a group to clean everything up. It was fantastic. I was so happy that everything work well & that we were able to open our doors to our community neighbor when they were in need.

Funeral: I organized & purchased the food for Marlys Christensen's funeral. Thank you to Jane Johnson, Pastor Heidi, Pastor Paul & Karen Bulgerin for serving & cleaning it up for me.

Construction Trailer: Earlier this month, the staff & I took a field trip to pick out the trailer we would be in during construction. I got that set up, signed the contract so we were able to move into our new office on time.

Storage Unit: With the help of Matt Lempke, I secured a storage unit for us to use during construction. We have rented a unit near Skateland. I went to Mequon to sign the contract & we were set to go!

Mailers: This month I printed the letter & labels & put together the mailing for the congregation for our Stewardship campaign.

Construction: Things are a changing at Grace. I have spent most of my month involved in some way with this. Along with Kerry Feutz & Katie Eippert & many other awesome helpers we got much of the church packed up to be moved to storage. We also held a church "rummage sale". After the rummage sale – we organized a moving day to storage. A wonderful group of people with truck & trailers came. And another group of wonderful people came to carry everything to the trucks. With all of those people in place we were done moving in 2 ½ hours. It was fantastic. We had a second move on Sunday to get the last of phase one stuff stored. I also am attending biweekly meetings construction meetings. I am meeting with the construction team from Catalyst & Growth. It is very interesting to learn how all of the pieces are coming together.

I am so excited for all of the changes that are happening at Grace. I feel so blessed to be a part of this exciting adventure.

FELLOWSHIP:

Fellowship has made the congregation aware of a number of great Christian concerts in the area over the next 3 months. So far...I'm going! I've not heard from anyone else.

Fellowship will be hosting Pie Social on Thanksgiving Eve. As well as, Birthday Party for Jesus on Dec 20th.

We will be planning events for next year at the next mtg.

PROPERTY:

The Piano gifted to Grace by the Defenbaugh family has been moved into Fellowship Hall.

The REMODEL/ADDITION has begun!

The offices, library, nursery, Stephen Ministries, and the remainder of the south-east corner of the building have been emptied. Lots of furnishings are in either storage or moved into the office trailer parked along the west side of the building. The office trailer has temporary power, phone and internet. Phase one is under way this week with the office's being demoed.

I have not heard anything back from Groth or Catalyst regarding a quote for replacement of furnaces and air conditioning for worship provided by the HVAC contractor rewarded the contract for the renovation. I have the name of a local HVAC contractor I will call in for a quote and will advise.

CHRISTIAN CARE:

Christian Care is gearing up for Trunk or Treat this coming Sunday, October 25. We'll have 9 trunk decorators and there are a little over 50 people signed up for lunch.

KFC will be running a game of their own in addition to the games that Korey Gierach has planned. We will be painting mini pumpkins as well and serving a hot dog lunch. We did not rent a bounce house this year due to uncertainty about construction and lack of space. We are planning to bring that feature back again next year. Two confirmation students have volunteered to assist with set up and the event.

A huge thank you to Lisa Bernd and Korey Gierach for all of their help with this event!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

High School Youth Group

HS helped with move. Had a nerf event afterwards.

Had some struggles with the event planning because of construction, etc. Pat will speak with P. Paul and P. Heidi about how to proceed with events for the rest of the educational year.

Great attendance in morning classes!

- Sunday School

§ Working on trying to make some small changes to make sure everything is going OK with less space. Seems to be working well in general. Superintendents sent out an e-mail to all teachers to provide a few suggestions that will hopefully help with a few small concerns.

§ Christmas Pageant & Baby Shower for Jesus will take place on Dec 20. Eryn is already working with kids on songs, Ruth will begin to finalize parts for all who want to participate.

- KFC/JYG

Have new leadership in place! First event is Oct 18.

- Confirmation

P. Paul and Jessica Korrison going on 8th grade retreat.

- VBS

2016 Theme—Surf Shack: Catching the Wave of God's Amazing Love

Will be able to do online registration.

WORSHIP:

The meeting opened with a prayer by Pastor Heidi

Mark Lerret was welcomed. He will be representing the Praise Team since Vince cannot attend these meetings.

The anniversary Service went well. Sound system came together at the final moment. Thanks to Jim Schmidt for helping set up the sound system, and to Zach Durlam for operating it during the service.

We discussed ideas for a new church council member for the WPT. Pastor Paul heads the nominating committee and some ideas were shared with him.

The new way of doing communion on the first Sunday of the month was reviewed. Overall this went well last Sunday, but does involve more set up time. Some fine tuning may be necessary, but overall there is satisfaction with the way it went.

November services were discussed including themes and music. Pastor Heidi shared the sermon themes based upon "Faith Five" program. Upcoming services themes:

Oct 18: "SHARE" Pastor Heidi preaching

October 25: "READ" Pastor Heidi preaching

November 1: "TALK" Pastor Paul preaching

November 8: "PRAY" Pastor Heidi reaching

November 15: "BLESS" Pastor Paul preaching

November 22: Time and Talents Sunday. Special music: Trumpet

November 25: Thanksgiving Eve at 7:00 PM, Pastor Paul preaches. (No Thursday Eve service.)

November 29: Special music with bells and cello. Sermon theme to be discussed next month.

Thursday Evening services during Advent will be Holden.

Christmas services: Christmas Eve – 3:00 Children with Ruth; 4:30-Praise Team; 6:30 Traditional with both bell choirs and vocal choir.

The choir will be doing a cantata with Community Methodist Church on Dec 6 (at CMC) and on 12/13 at Grace. Caroling on 12/12, and singing at Lasada on Jan 20.

Zach Durlam will be leading a music festival in Wauwatosa on Oct 25 at 3:30. 6 to 7 church choirs will participate including Grace

There are issues with a location for the nursery during construction. One idea is to dedicate an area in the entry way to be used by infants and parents during church services.

Mark mentioned that Vince has access to the CCLI top 100 for lyrics and scores if anyone needs this.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 3 at 6:30 PM. The location is to be determine, but will be somewhere within the church building.

OUTREACH:

Seven large grocery bags were taken to Family Sharing at the beginning of the month.

A bulletin Insert was inserted for Lutheran Disaster Response for U.S. Flooding.

Oct 19th was St. Ben's. 430 people were served, 46 being children. We had 11 members of Grace serving (Two families of 4) plus 3 others. It was awesome.

I haven't heard anything further from APC regarding our participation in their meal program with St. Vincent De Paul.

Family Promise Highlights:

Mari Goecke Meeting with Grace's support church-Living Hope of Saukville Mari, Kim Beloin, Alex Pieper, and possibility the pastor. Active role in the week. So far they are willing to come in and provide the Sat AM hot breakfast along with Marry Korrison Mari checking with Ed regarding the funds available. \$200 is budgeted for each week. There should be \$800 from 2015, since we haven't had week yet, there should be extra money to buy items that are needed and will use when we are using St. John's facilities.

Volunteer training will be Nov 16th. Hopefully she can arrange for the training to be done at St. John's as we will be using the facility for at least Dec, March, and possibly June hosting weeks.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

A couple items to note are as follows:

1. Our offerings through September slid back again-we were \$24,130.00 behind at the end of August, but now are \$30,695.00 behind.

2. We spent \$10,354.35 in Groth Design charges in September - \$7,980.00 for Bidding/Negotiation fees, \$1,273.22 for printing and postage, \$66.13 for 'travel expenses' and \$1035.00 for state fees. In addition, we paid the Village of Grafton \$5928.00 for an 'Impact fee' and \$897.00 for a 'ERC fee'. The building fund net balance decreased from \$246,478.00 to \$238,807.00 over the month.

3. I am working on a way to easily portray the various portions of the building program income and expenses so that is easier to report on.

VPT: No Report

Business Old and New

Update on Building Project

Furniture funding

2016 Budget

News/Notes/Sharing

Closing Prayer – Pastor Heidi