



Council Minutes September 28th, 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)	*Sarah Brogni (Property)
Mike McGraw (President Elect)	Valerie Salzman (Christian Care)	

(*) present at meeting

The meeting began at 7:30 P.M. with President Kerry Feutz presiding.

Reflection led by Ed Eckert

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

Pastors and DI Reports

PASTOR PAUL'S REPORT:

Fall Stewardship: I am working on this fall's program which will run on Sundays, October 15 and 22. Steve Korinek is once again sharing his talents with us to help me create the stewardship brochure that will be mailed to the congregation the week of October 22. I am using the round number of a \$25,000 budget increase for 2018 since we don't have the budget completely planned out yet and we need to have materials to the printer by October 2.

I applied for, and received, a \$250 Thrivent "Action Plan" grant to be used towards the cost of printing the brochure. I also will write letters to several members asking if they would consider a special donation to help with the \$1,600 costs of participating in the "Stewardship For All Seasons" pilot project and the extra printing costs associated with this program. This cost was not included in our 2017 church budget.

"Grow In Grace" Funds: I have shared with the council my thoughts that it would be a very wise move for the congregation to hold some of the remaining \$160,000 in "Grow In Grace" funds in reserve to help with any budget shortfalls, with regard to the mortgage, over the next couple of years. While the congregation has done a tremendous job by increasing giving to the annual budget by \$100,000 in the last two years, we are still trying to figure out what the new building will cost us on an annual basis through the mortgage and maintenance.

If we were to ask the congregation's permission to set aside \$60,000 for this purpose, we could still reduce the principal by \$100,000 more. We would also give ourselves some financial breathing room just in case our giving does not match the greatly increase budgetary needs in the near future.

I have shared with the council that I've discussed this idea with Jeff Newlin, the consultant from RSI who worked with us during the capital fund appeal, and Pastor Mike Ward, the financial consultant who is heading up the "Stewardship For All Seasons" program, and they both said this is a reasonable and perfectly legitimate use of some of the "Grow In Grace" funds. Jeff Newlin said he was surprised we didn't use some of those funds to help with our 2017 church budget.

We will need to spell this out to the congregation and seek their approval. We can save ourselves unnecessary budget worries as we seek to move forward with a lot of positive things now that the building program is done. Kerry Feutz brought this up in the council newsletter she sent to the congregation this summer, and she plans to address it again with the congregation during the announcements at Sunday services in early October.

Nicaraguan Mission Trip: My wife Karen and I are seriously considering going with the mission group to Nicaragua in early 2018. Meg informed me that someone has generously offered to pay my airfare, so we are



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looking at our personal budget to see if we work it out that Karen comes, too. I will have a decision on this sometime next week.

“In the Footsteps of the Apostle Paul” Trip in June 2018: I have started publicizing this great biblical trip to the members of Grace and St. John’s Lutheran in Brookfield, my former congregation. I plan to begin my summer 2018 sabbatical by leading this trip.

Confirmation: Classes for seventh, eighth and ninth grade have begun. I am teaching all these classes. This year I am meeting with the ninth graders two times per month, instead of once a month, as was done in the past. I hope this will keep the class better connected with one another through the year.

Staff Mission Reviews: This week I conducted reviews for the office staff: Ed Borkenhagen, Lisa Bernd, Katie Eippert and Erica Dimmest. I will meet with the music leaders in the next couple of weeks.

I am having my mission review on Wednesday, September 27.

“Fathering 101: Be the Dad”: I’m starting this DVD series for fathers on Saturday, September 23. I plan to have the class meet one Saturday morning per month through the year to complete the series.

“God’s Work Our Hands”: We had about ninety volunteers help with nine different projects on Sunday, September 10. Cindy Witt had her Girl Scouts come to help with one of them.

We need to make plans to continue the work renovating All Peoples nursery. A small group of volunteers got started, but there is still a lot to do. We will set up more dates to go down to All Peoples and continue the work this fall.

The staff and some project leaders have discussed moving “God’s Work Our Hands” a week later in 2018, so we can use Rally Day, a day when lots of people are back after the summer, for additional recruiting.

PASTOR HEIDI'S REPORT:

Worship: I look forward to getting the plans for the Reformation Service finalized soon.

I baptized Michael Cassel and met with his family.

I was asked to be the alumni preacher at the Homecoming chapel service at Luther on Friday, October 6. I will be there for my 15th class reunion.

I officiated at the wedding of my cousin Anastasia Maren to Matthew Coppola.

I have been doing wedding prep with another couple referred to me by a colleague from seminary. They live in Hartland, but their wedding will be at Lime Kiln Park in Grafton on Sunday, October 22. I will be missing worship but cleared it with the council president.

Summer Hours: I have been making some preliminary plans for when Pastor Paul is gone on sabbatical. I think we will have a good group of people to draw from for back up and some occasional preaching help.

HYPE Youth Group: I have been leading many of the classes. One week we did some fun Duct Tape games. This week will be Bible Minute-to-win-it games. In October we will spend a couple weeks learning about the Reformation.

Education: We are meeting for the discussion group on the Borg book. I had 8 people sign up.

Lydia Circle has also begun our monthly meetings. We are reading “Twelve Women of the Bible” this year. We had three new members join our group.



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Packing LOWER Care Kits: We are scheduled to put together the items we collected for the Personal Care Kits on Thursday, October 12 at 5pm, followed by a spaghetti supper. The boxcar to pick up the kits will be coming to Milwaukee on Saturday, October 14. I will drive the items down and they will be loaded onto the boxcar to be put together in kits and distributed.

DIRECTOR OF INVOLVEMENT:

Door Signs: The door signs are finished & up! They look fantastic. Thank you to Debbie Walter's for her donation. And thank you to Larry Scheibach for hanging them up.

Sunday School: I got all the student's grades promoted, all the name tags made, attendance sheets done & put in the classrooms. I also got all the confirmation sheets & attendance sheets done.

Cleaning Company: I have hired a new cleaning service. I interviewed 5 companies & 4 submitted bids. After looking through all the data, I chose to hire Coverall. They had all the things that I looked for in a company & as a bonus it was the lowest bid. I have signed a one year contract (which is what all the companies required). I will be meeting with them on Wednesday, September 27 to meet the cleaner & to walk through the building. They will be starting to clean on Friday, September 29.

Dine In/Dine Out Luncheon: Dine In/Dine Out sign up has started. Katie has offered to help me with the luncheon & putting the groups together. Grace will be providing the main dish for the luncheon. We will be having ham sandwiches.

Building Updates: Southport will be in on Wednesday, September 27 to do the winterizing for our heating system.

ADA Door: The company was in today to change out the radio frequency mechanism in the door. The original one was crossing lines with the Exit sign. It is working well.

Coffee Maker: The coffee maker is no longer working. I have been in contact with Watsons to rent a machine from them. It will be approx. \$20.00 per month to rent the machine & \$40.00 for 40 pots of coffee. It is a pour over pot system. They would be able to install the machine for us & they maintain the machine for us. I have been in contact with the company to get the process started.

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.

Attendance Report

Year to date and monthly attendance numbers were discussed.

Open Issues

- Personnel Committee Update
 - The committee met this month. They have three returning members and two new members. They had no Chair person. They voted the Past President should serve as the Chair each year. This will give them a direct link to Council.
 - Their current goal is to look at salaries and make recommendations for the 2018 salaries.
- 2018 Budget
 - Council members from the Executive Committee will meet with Ed Borkenhagen to discuss a potential budget for 2018. They will take this proposal to Council for discussion and ultimately to the church members.
 - There was a reminder to each Council member to get their 2018 budgets over to Kerry ASAP.



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- In addition, various budget line items were discussed generally with no final decisions being made.
 - One item related to the possibility of increasing the budget for 7th Grade Confirmation camp.
 - 7th Grade Confirmation Camp - There are 9 students in 7th grade next year. Camp is strongly encouraged for 7th graders and cost is about \$420 per student. Currently church budget helps with 100 dollars per person. Other fundraisers are Ash Wednesday meal and the Craft Fair Silent Auction and Food sales. The YFMT suggested an increase to \$200 per students from the budget with the goal that parents would only have to pay \$100 per student.
 - To compare this to other costs:
 - 8th Grade Confirmation - about \$80 per student
 - 9th Grade Confirmation - about \$100 per student
 - Quad Cities High School Mission Trip - Cost is \$300 per student plus transportation. Goal is for students to send out letters to friends and family to help support them financially and with prayer for the mission trip.
 - Council Discussion:
 - Council felt that the church already supports the 7th grade confirmation students adequately from the budget. There is a fund available for anyone that needs extra support. Council also felt that parents should pay about half of the cost of the camp, which is around \$200

Committee Reports

CHRISTIAN CARE:

I'm continuing to work on the photo Directory and have nothing new to report.

FELLOWSHIP:

- The Luther event is coming up on 10/22 at 4:00. There will be a potluck after the speaker.
- Plans are being finalized for the meal on Reformation Sunday.
- Plans are beginning to be made for the Thanksgiving Pie Social and Birthday Party for Jesus.

FINANCE:

- We are about \$36,000 short on our income through August. This is normal for where we are each year around this time.
- We are estimating we will fall about \$10,000-15,000 short of our overall estimated income this year. Expenses are tracking as expected.

OUTREACH:

- No Report

PROPERTY:

- Topsoil and seed has been laid.
- Closets are being organized and cleaned.
- Taking inventory of what we have in the building
- Planning a goodwill offering for all the leftover cleaning supplies. This will take place in November.
- Planning to create a Property binder so this job is more organized moving forward.

WORSHIP:

The Worship Planning Team met on Sept. 5th, 2017. Two team members were absent.



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- Kathy Brown is leaving the team because she has joined the Ozaukee Chorus which meets on Tuesday evenings. That conflicts with our team meetings. Her time with us has been short but we appreciate her contribution and wish her much success with her new musical challenge.
- The team is planning to recruit a new team member who has some direct connection to the children's point of view. We are in the planning stages now. As soon as we definitely have the new member recruited that name will be shared with the Council.
- 41 people from Grace attended the worship service at All People's church on August 27th. We had a small discussion around how that church treats texting during church services.
- Pastor Paul has two stewardship Sundays planned in October.
- Pastor Heidi's Christmas Eve notes will be on the Worship Planning Team agenda for discussion at our October meeting.

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY COMMITTEE:

YFMT Meeting August 31st 7pm

We welcome Jennifer Jacobson to the YFMT

Sunday School

- Sunday School Staff meeting was held on August 24th - we have a full staff
- Rally Sunday - Set up to the scavenger hunt for Sunday School students and families
- Reformation
 - October 8th Reformation Cartoon Movie and posters
 - All family event with stations on October 15th in Sunday School with stations throughout the church on the Reformation
- Christmas Program - Service times 8:30 and 10:30am

KFC - 3rd thru 5th Grade

- Hosting events 3rd Sunday of the month from 11:30 to 1:30
- Barb Eckert, Sarah Newell, Steven Beloin, Kate Petermann, Katie Eippert will help out
- Erica Dimmett to lead

JYG - 6th thru 8th Grade

Sept 24th "Get to Know Ya" 3-5pm

- October 21-22nd Famine
- Nov 11th Craft Fair - selling food and Silent Auction
- Nov 19th Movie Night at 5pm
- Dec 10th Lasata Shopping 11:30 to 2:30
- Jan - Lock In
- Feb - Skiing/Sledding

HYPE - 9th thru 12th Grace

- Sept 17th Kick Off Party 5:30pm
- Oct 22nd Martin and Katie Luther visit Grace 4pm
- Nov 17th Lock In
- Dec 10th Cookie Making - 9:15am
- Jan - Annual Meeting - Chili Lunch
- Jan 26-28 - 9th Grade Confirmation Retreat



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- Feb - Skiing/Sledding
- March - HYPE Retreat
- March 25th Palm Sunday Brunch
- July 2018 - Quad Cities IA Mission Trip

Parent Fellowship Hour

Start up in October

Special Programs

- Trunk or Treat - Since this is a youth and family event and does not seem to have a home the YFMT will be leading this event (but not the meal) It was also decided unanimously that the event is much better outside than inside
- Splash for Jesus - We will be doing again next year but not so close to VBS
- Spark Book Fair - We will do every other year

VBS Review

- We had a lot of kids at VBS - 136 in total. This has increased every year with volunteers staying about the same (around 60-70). We are looking at modifying how we do VBS to better accommodate such large numbers. Especially as a lot of children this year signed up last minute.
- Sent out 8 postcards to families from VBS who did not indicate a "church home" on their registration

Other Business

Closing Prayer: Pastor Heidi