

Community of Grace Lutheran Church
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES
March 22, 2018

Those present: Jodi Bendt, Sandy Anderson, Mike Verley, Michelle Blankenship, Mark Schuneman, Dan McMahon, Ken Colberg, Tim Orf, Maia Hendrickson, Mike Preston, Mike Mathisen, Jeff Montgomery, Steve Turnbull

Excused: None

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. Refreshments and devotions by Steve Turnbull and Jeff Montgomery.

The January 11, February 15, and February 27 Special Session minutes were approved.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Steve Turnbull

Pastor Steve expressed his gratitude to Council and Staff for the investment of time and energy in strategic planning for our church community at Mike Mathisen's home at the Council and Staff Foundations Retreat on March 9 and 10, 2018. This was followed by a discussion of the staff survey results on Monday, March 12 during a Staff Day with Holy Cow Consulting in attendance.

A Pulse meeting and discussion was held on March 22, 2018 with Pastor Steve, Jeff Montgomery, former Council presidents, and current council president to discuss further survey results.

On Saturday, April 21, a Synced Retreat will occur for Staff and Council at Mike Mathisen's home, to work on an updated Vision Statement and strategic planning toward it.

Children's Ministries: Mark Schuneman

The annual CGLC Easter Egg hunt will be held on Saturday, March 31. A format change will encourage hearing the Gospel message as families rather than splitting up families by the age of their children.

Discussions have occurred within the Children's Ministry core team regarding potential modifications to the Hallelujah Festival with an addition of an educational speaker for parents. In addition, there has been discussion around CGLC children's religious foundations. Children's Ministry continues to work toward having a clear path for children to have a meaningful relationship with Christ.

Student Ministries: Dan McMahon

The Ninth Grade Confirmation retreat was held at CGLC at the end of January. Retreat volunteers felt encouraged by signs of spiritual growth in attendees.

In February, there was a parent event with Tiger McCluen. Student Ministries hopes to engage parents more often as well as children.

Pancake breakfast last weekend was successful with above-average fund raising.

Good Friday service next week will be student-led.

Refuge students will soon be studying a new topic focusing on not judging others, and trusting God with their lives.

Student Ministries Core team recently started to meet, with three meetings already held.

Adult Ministries: Maia Hendrickson

On March 3, the Growth Group Leader Appreciation Event was held with 20 attendees. There is an anticipation of more of these types of activities, it was well received.

The most current Catalyst session held 40 participants. Lindsey has approached Catalyst couples who want to start Growth Groups, which is encouraging and exciting as we continue to build Growth Group participation.

Senior Ministries: Ken Colberg

Events: The Valentine's Banquet was held on Thursday, February 8 with about 40 in attendance. The event included an excellent meal and entertainment.

Groups: Romeo and Old Guy's Bible Study met faithfully.

Juliet met at Manitou Grill on March 5; 11 attendees were there despite the poor weather!

Women's Circles prepared to lead their studies on the book of Revelation.

Service: Bandage rollers, knitters, and card makers continue to serve.

Pat Ponath, leader of the quilters, recently had surgery and the group has been visiting her as she recovers while keeping up with their quilting. Janet Babcock has started a partnership with homebound quilters of Ecumen, Maplewood, in which they make squares and bring them to our quilters to help assemble them.

Women of Grace have special emphasis in the the month of April on collecting clothes for Martha's closet, an agency that offers gently used professional wardrobe items to underprivileged women seeking employment.

On April 12 at 11:30 a.m., there will be a meal and painting event for S.A.M.P.L.E.

Worship: Tim Orf

Mission of Hope Sunday was February 25. Brad Johnson of MOH share his inspiring message of what is being accomplished in Haiti.

MN Adult and Teen Challenge visited CGLC on January 21 to convey their stories of broken lives undergoing transformation and healing.

A series was recently concluded on how to live a Jesus-informed life when it comes to dealing with money and possessions.

Lenten services included a series of mid-week services at 4:30 and 6:30 PM with the theme of Cross in the World, in which we explored the ways our world is divided, and how Jesus sets the example for bridging these divides.

Palm Sunday is approaching this weekend and several Easter services will be held on April 1, all led by live by Pastor Steve.

The contemporary worship team's singers and musicians have been engaged in a 9-part workshop series, Practice Matters, in which they are learning how to develop and build better preparation techniques.

Missions: Mike Verley

HAITI: Food for Haiti was a huge success! 224 volunteers helped pack 60,000 meals for Mission of Hope. We were also able to raise \$21,943+. The \$3943+ in funds over our goal of \$18,000 will be used for a project in Source Matelas in 2019.

MOH Sunday continues to be a special time with Brad & Vannesa Johnson. Brad shared a message in the services, our church helped sponsor 17 more kids (170 total!), and around \$1000 of MOH merchandise was sold in support of the ministry.

HOM: \$200 worth of diapers are dropped off monthly to the Family Service Center through our Diaper Duty service project.

Families from the Family Service Center are invited to join CGLC's Easter Egg Hunt on March 31. We will provide a school bus and typically have 6-12 families join us.

HOOD: We hosted our last Mobile Market for the WB Food Shelf on February 23. In its place, CGLC will be serving at Bonus Saturdays at the Food Shelf on the fourth Saturday of the month.

Stamp Out Hunger is May 12 and CGLC will be using this service event as an outreach event through our regular attendees. 130+ volunteers are needed to help check, sort, and store the 15,000 lbs. of food that will come in that day.

GENERAL: April is Martha's Closet month at CGLC.

The Service & Missions Core Team decided to financially support Michaela Koll's missions work with YWAM with \$1,000. Michaela has been training and serving in

San Francisco the past three months and will be doing mission work with children in Vietnam April-June.

Also, Ashley Collins is going to serve 11 countries over 11 months through the World Race this Fall, and Sarah Ambli is going to do medical missions in Zambia this fall.

Treasurer's Report: Mike Verley

Giving in February finished below budgeted expectations and below 2017 actuals. 2018 expenses are below budgeted amounts.

Facilities: Mike Preston

We are actively seeking bids to add three new security doors for our partner schools.

A \$100K gift from anonymous source will allow for the renovation of the Fellowship Hall, dependent on plan approval of Council and a congregational vote. Work may begin as soon as June after VBS.

Nursing mothers space discussed.

Stewardship: Mike Mathisen

No report.

Vice President's Report: Jodi Bendt

Sandy, Steve, and Jodi met tonight to discuss staff salary increases.

Secretary's Report: Michelle Blankenship

No Report

President's Report: Sandy Anderson

Church Council Team Covenant was discussed and signed by all members.

First Core Team meeting for Partner schools this week; successful first meeting; anticipate the relationships to bear much fruit.

Offering for April: Jodi Bendt at 9:00 and Ken Colberg at 10:30.

Devotions & Refreshments for the meeting on April 26 will be provided by: Dan McMahon

Next meeting on April 26, 2018.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.. Closed with prayer.

Michelle Blankenship
Executive Secretary