

COMMUNITY OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Council Minutes

May 21, 2020

Call to Order & Roll Call

Present: Sandy Anderson, Ken Colberg, Dennis Engman, Wendy Fitzsimmons, Maia Hendrickson, Jeff Hovis, Mike Mathisen, Dan McMahon, Jeff Montgomery, Tim Orf, Mark Schuneman, Michelle Sherman, Darrin Vick, Angie Way

Excused: All present.

Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Devotions: Wendy opened with devotions and prayer. Highs and lows were shared by all.

Minutes for April approved.

Pastor Darrin's Report:

Darrin read from 1 Thessalonians 5:23. We are reminded to love others and to care for the whole person, body/soul/spirit. We need to make the best plans we can to protect people's physical bodies. Because of social distancing, we need to go out of our way to connect with people and reach out. The Holy Spirit connects believers, and we care for the spiritual well-being of our people. During this time, we are finding creative ways to be the people of God. The "church" never closes, only the building has closed. Stay centered on what God is calling us to do: love others!

We walked through the plan for reopening the building as recommended by the Crisis Advisory Team. The survey is out with 96 responding already. The survey link is easy to find on our website. Preliminary data reveals that most feel more comfortable meeting in smaller groups. We may consider sending this survey out again and compare the results.

The drive-in worship experience, scheduled for June 7 at 11 a.m., will include a celebration of graduating seniors, communion, and music. Full services will continue to be live-streamed and available on the website. According to the Governor's Phase 2, nothing changes for us regarding church meetings. Phase 3 permits 20 people indoors and up to 100 outdoors with masks and no singing. Phase 4 consists of a max of 250 indoors. We are unsure when these phases will happen. We are preparing traffic flows in the building, taking out chairs in Fellowship Hall and roping off pews in the sanctuary. All present service offerings will remain available. Twenty or less is very small, but we plan to encourage the development of small worship groups called "Grace Gatherings." We have no present timeline for this initiative. With fifteen leaders, 300 could worship in small groups. Our congregation is blessed with many strong leaders. On June 7, we will practice an outdoor gathering and explore additional options for future services.

Our next sermon series is entitled "Off the Map," with a focus on how to be missional. The staff have been reading a book entitled, *Surprise the World: The Five Habits of Highly Missional People*, by Michael Frost. This series will start in June.

We will trust the Holy Spirit to guide us with our plans.

Council discussion followed regarding the recent Governor's directives and implications for our church and the church staff. More dialogue to follow.

Pastor Angie's Report:

A team of people are calling seniors who do not have internet and providing the survey questions.

Core Team Reports

Children's Ministries: Wendy Fitzsimmons

Britta is asking for prayer for Flying Junction VBS options for children this summer. She is looking for leaders. In addition, she is considering a Family Hospitality Room plan. The present video presentations for children have been well received.

Student Ministries: Dan McMahon

Refuge at home has had a great turnout and it was extended thru 5/20/2020. The team is still evaluating summer plans. Students are hungry for connection. We may consider more offerings with smaller groups. This year's mission trip was cancelled. Another option is being explored. It may become a day trip experience in Minneapolis. As mentioned, on June 7, high school seniors will be recognized.

Adult Ministries: Jeff Hovis

The next "Ask Away" session happens next Tuesday on Live Stream. Questions may be submitted in advance.

Seniors: Ken Colberg

One senior member expressed great excitement over the ability to listen to the service over the telephone. Many miss the traditional service, but they are also concerned about being safe. "Traditions of Grace" uses past elements of services with recent information included. We are working to make this more accessible.

Worship: Tim Orf

This week would normally be the Teen Challenge Sunday. We will hear from them with some videos. Teen Challenge will be able to tune in to our service this weekend. Contributions to the ministry will occur.

Worship options include the telephone, Traditions of Grace, and Gracepeople.live. This live stream option works well, and the chat is easier to use than Vimeo. We are also working on increasing the bandwidth for live streaming.

Welcome/Hospitality: Dennis Engman

No report, but the team is interested in how we will move forward. Hannah has been doing a great job of leading prayer for our church at 10:30 a.m. on weekdays.

Missions: Michelle Sherman

HOOD: For Teen Challenge Sunday, bagels will be delivered to the men in the program. Michaela Koll is serving the local community through YWAM. Pray for God's direction. She believes she should remain in San Francisco. Fare For All was very successful. The Garage Sale has been postponed until August 8. Expect a limited number of sellers with social distancing. Final decisions regarding the Garage Sale will happen by July 1. School Tools drive begins July 19. Recommended donations include \$20 for overseas and \$50 for WBL students.

HAITI: A sewing machine was donated to Mission of Hope.

HOM: So far, no cases of COVID-19 have occurred at Project Home!

Infrastructure Reports

Treasurer and Stewardship Report: Mike Mathisen and Jeff Montgomery

Great news! We are technically in the black after the first 4 months! This is amazing especially with a global pandemic. The Payroll Protection Plan loan is not part of this month's report. Although members are not in the building, we are \$29,000 ahead of last year. Most of the monthly budget includes fixed costs. General gifts to missions are under budget. This may be related to the MOH giving and the "Love Pours Out" gifts. We will need to decide how to communicate a stewardship update including the PPP loan.

Facilities: Jeff Montgomery

The metal roof is completed. Next week, our friends at Interstate Companies will complete repairs on the parking lot. Crack filling is a necessary maintenance expense that needs to be completed at \$7000. This will come out of Endowment Funds.

Paul has done a great job providing bids for future, important facility work.

Secretary's Report: Maia

No report.

Vice President's Report: Mark Schuneman

Special thank you to the church leadership during these challenging times, especially Darrin, Angie and Jeff M.

President's Report: Sandy Anderson

Next month's meeting occurs on June 18. Since we qualify as a group of 20 or less, we will plan to meet in Mike Mathisen's back yard. Plan to meet at 6 p.m. Sandy will send out his address.

For June, Michelle will provide a short devotion and opening prayer.

Other new business:

none

Maia closed in prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Next meeting June 18, 2020 at 6 p.m. at Mike Mathisen's home.

Respectfully submitted by Maia Hendrickson