

**COMMUNITY OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**Church Council Minutes**

August 15, 2019

**Call to Order & Roll Call**

Present: Sandy Anderson, Jodi Bendt, Ken Colberg, Maia Hendrickson, Jeff Hovis, Tim Orf, Mark Schuneman, Michelle Sherman, Darrin Vick

Excused: Dennis Engman, Mike Mathisen, Jeff Montgomery, Angie Way

Meeting called to order at 7:08 pm

Treats: provided by Mark

Devotions: provided by Dan

Minutes for June meeting were approved.

**Pastor Darrin's Report**

He arrived four months ago, and he feels strengthened in the Lord. Darrin is shepherding the staff during this time of turnover. Next Tuesday the staff meeting will be at his house.

Women's BSF class is moving to Maplewood First Evangelical Free Church.

Darrin had an angiogram and stent placed. Praise the Lord that his blockage was discovered before he developed any symptoms. He reported, "I'm finally weak enough to lead."

**Core Team Reports**

**Children's Ministries: Mark Scheunemann**

Sunday school starts September 15. They are still three to four volunteers short. Core Team met to plot out the year. Erika Sawyer, Kevin Sheldon, Sandy Anderson, and Mark Scheunemann will help with large groups. Sue Spangenberg will help with curriculum, and Amanda Stambaugh's Growth Group will help with craft set up.

**Student Ministries: Dan McMahon**

The July Mission Trip group traveled to Estes Park, Colorado, and they spent five days at the camp with 27 students. The service project was fixing a trail at Annunciation Heights, a Catholic campground. They prayed over the trail that they fixed. This trip included Whitewater rafting. The students participated in worship and a message each morning and evening.

Beach BBQ and worship for high school students occurred on August 14. This included a send-off for those heading for college. About a dozen students attended.

Valley Fair: 10 students in grades seven through ten signed up for this event for today.

Leader Training: September 4

Refuge and Confirmation kick off again: September 11

Midnight: September 20; volunteers are welcome. Let Dan or Melinda know if interested. (Volunteer shifts 6:30-9 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.-12:15 a.m.)

### **Adult Ministries: Jeff Hovis**

The second Ask Away event occurred on July 17 at Anchor Coffee Shop in downtown White Bear Lake. Forty-four people attended including 7 teens/young adults. The topics included:

- Challenges with discussing religion and politics
- How reliable is the Bible?
- How about apparent contradictions in the Bible?
- How do we support young people who attend institutions of higher learning that reject Christian teachings?
- What does it mean to believe the literal Word of God (e.g. Creation in 7 days)?

Starting September 22, we will offer a three-part Discipleship Course with Dr. David Clark from Bethel Seminary. We will discuss how to be a witness for Christ in our modern culture. Time will be 11:45 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday afternoons. Specific topics include:

- Part 1: September 22- Teaching about God who is on mission for people. God is a sending God and brought something new and transformative.
- Part 2: September 29- Listening and understanding people in modern culture. Understanding the ideas behind modern culture.
- Part 3: October 6- Witnessing to our community.

The third Ask Away event is scheduled for October 20 from 6:30-7:45 p.m. This will include a panel of three: A Christian apologist, a Muslim spokesperson, a Jewish Rabbi/Teacher. This is not a debate but a chance for each to answer four big questions:

- Who is God?
- What is the problem with humanity?
- What is the solution to that problem?
- What happens next?

Growth Groups: No connection event this fall, but we will develop a catalog for church members to contact leaders about becoming part of a group.

Catalyst classes will start on Wednesdays from October 16-November 13 from 6:30-8 p.m. Pastor Angie and Pastor Darrin will teach these classes.

### **Seniors: Ken Colberg**

On July 25, S.A.M.P.L.E. heard about Gene Eastlund's travels. About 40 people attended.

The J.U.L.I.E.T. group met in Stillwater at The Freight House with 10 women attending.

Bible Camp for Adults at Mt. Carmel in Alexandria is coming and runs from August 26-29. It is not too late to sign up. The focus is on the Psalms. So far, eight people are signed up.

**Service:** Quilters, Bandage rollers, Knitters and Card makers continue to serve.

**Women's Circles:** Pastor Joy Johnson led the first Circle leaders meeting. The study this year is about growing in prayer.

September 7: The Women of Grace are holding a free prayer breakfast for all ages from 9-10:30 a.m.

September 11: Senior Wednesday Night Bible Study will resume.

September 12: A dessert and coffee event with Ashley Collins will occur in the Fellowship Hall. She will share pictures and stories from her eleven-month mission trip with The World Race.

In October and November, Lyngblomsten, in partnership with Community of Grace, will host a class in our Large Choir Room on Tuesdays from 9:30 a.m. to noon. The topic is *Living Well with Chronic Conditions*. The class supports those who live with conditions that make daily life harder to manage (such as arthritis, heart issues, diabetes, fibromyalgia, etc.) They will recommend ways to cope and improve the quality of life. Invite people including caregivers of people struggling with chronic health issues. The cost is \$15 for materials. The class occurs every Tuesday for six weeks. The Deadline for sign-up is October 7.

### **Worship: Tim Orf**

Dan Lugo demonstrates the type of leadership that inspires transformation in others. High school student, Noelle Norman, is growing in her skills as a worship leader. Lighting changes continue with lighting board delivered this week.

### **Welcome/Hospitality: Dennis Engman**

No report

## **Missions: Michelle Sherman**

Perry left detailed notes. The next Core Team meeting is September 5.

HAITI: this trip is scheduled for January 25-February 1, 2020.

HOOD: School Tools drive wrapping up. Bonus Saturdays will continue.

HOM: preparing for December.

General: Ashley Collins is coming back in the end of August from The World Race, and Michaela Koll is serving with YWAM in San Francisco and returning soon for a visit.

## **Infrastructure Reports**

### **Treasurer's Report: Mike Mathisen absent: update from Sandy Anderson**

Finances trending down compared to last summer. Darrin will write a letter going out in early September, and Jeff will provide an update to the congregation. Be in prayer.

### **Stewardship: Mike Mathisen absent**

No additional report.

### **Facilities: Jeff Montgomery absent. Group shared updates**

Windows and roof projects are completed. Sidewalk is next.

### **Secretary's Report: Maia**

No report.

### **Vice President's Report: Jodi**

September 8: The Council will prepare pancakes, bacon, and sausages for Kick-off Sunday. Please recruit family and friends to assist the Council in preparing and serving the breakfast. Jodi will send out a sign-up.

Magnuson School: Heather Norman hired new teachers for the third grade and the middle school students.

### **President's Report: Sandy Anderson**

For short term, Hannah will help coordinate the Welcome Team on Sunday mornings. The Council will help on Sunday mornings by covering the Information Desk, so Hannah is available. Most Sundays, a staff person will be there in addition. Watch for a SignUp Genius link. Training is available along with written instructions and FAQs. Our role is to be a welcoming, positive presence. Michelle challenged us to strike up conversations with people we have not met yet.

Ken recommended everyone check out the new studio.

**Other new business: None**

**September Work Assignments**

Offering Auditors: 9:00 am: Michelle; 10:30 am: Maia

Devotions and refreshments for September 19, 2019: Tim

Sandy closed in prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Maia Hendrickson