

COMMUNITY OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Council Minutes

November 21, 2019

Call to Order & Roll Call

Present: Sandy Anderson, Jodi Bendt, Ken Colberg, Dennis Engman, Maia Hendrickson, Jeff Hovis, Mike Mathisen, Dan McMahon, Jeff Montgomery, Mark Schuneman, Michelle Sherman, Darrin Vick

Excused: Tim Orf, Angie Way

Meeting called to order at 7 pm.

Treats: provided by Michelle Sherman

Devotions: Highs and Lows with Prayer Requests and Michelle opened us in prayer.

Minutes for September and October approved with one correction.

Pastor Darrin's Report:

Staff updates

Hired Britta Maly as our Children's Ministry Director. Not only does she bring tremendous spiritual depth to the role, she also fits in well with the staff.

Hannah Collins moved into the Connections Coordinator position (Welcome and Groups combo.)

Administrative position interviews are underway.

Celebrations include the church potluck that was a tremendous success. All Saints Sunday was followed by the Confirmation celebration, and people saw the connection. Every confirmand attended Refuge the following Wednesday evening, and this is amazing!

Christmas Eve services include both traditional and contemporary at 2 and 4 p.m. with additional traditional services at 9 and 11 p.m. Candles will be lit at all services. Christmas Day service will be a traditional style at 10 a.m., and Pastor Angie will preach at this one.

Following Sunday, December 29, we will have two combined services in the Sanctuary. This will be a Service of Prayer. Council members are encouraged to read some of the prayers. Time of reflection will follow each prayer. Please let Pastor Darrin know if you will be available to participate.

Due to political unrest, we will not take the Haiti trip as planned. Instead, between January 26 and February 23, we will celebrate a season called *Raising Hope*. We will pray and raise money for Haiti. A *Service of Hope* is scheduled for Sunday, January 26 in the

evening. This will launch a prayer movement for Haiti. Congregation members who have been to Haiti and the village champions will tell stories.

Pastor Angie's Report: no report

Core Team Reports

Children's Ministries: Mark Schuneman

Brita started, and she is getting to know the students. On December 1, we will have HISKids Sunday School and all will attend the services for the Christmas program on December 15. Students from all grades will participate in the Christmas program.

Student Ministries: Dan McMahon

Confirmation Celebration was November 10. Thanks to all who supported these students through prayer, fundraisers, and interviews. Many students made thoughtful decisions for Jesus.

The High School Whirly Ball event was November 15.

Refuge: Just finished a series on friendship. Discussions included how our friendships matter to God, how we can be the kind of friend we want to have, how to handle friendships that end, guarding your heart and your inner circle, etc.

December 4 is Breakout Night. Confirmation students continue their journey through Teen Alpha. High school students are going to Don Julio's for "Let's Taco 'Bout Missions" discussion led by Ashley Collins.

Planning for a service night on December 11. Some of the projects include Bingo at Cerenity Care Center, bell ringing for the Salvation Army, packing kits for the WBL food shelf, and serving at Project Home.

Students are showing strong support for the Diaper Drive.

Adult Ministries: Jeff Hovis

Hannah is now working with this core team. Pastor Darrin will meet with this group on Sunday to strategize how to grow our groups.

Ask Away is happening now. Pray this is a great opportunity for outreach.

Seniors: Ken Colberg

All groups are functioning well.

J.U.L.I.E.T. met at Denny's including 10 women and 1 visitor.

Women's Circle leaders' study was today. Retired Pastor Doreen Jeffers covered for Pastor Angie while she is on vacation.

Senior Events

A Celebration for Veterans had over 80 people. LADC Preschool sang a thank you song and presented flags. Magnuson Elementary school made placemats and presented Veterans with cards thanking them for their service. Magnuson Jr. High brought plates to the tables for lunch. In the program, one Magnuson student played the *Star Spangled Banner*, and all the Magnuson Kids sang *God Bless America*. Pastor Angie did a review of the events of D-Day for the 75th Anniversary and talked about the grace of Jesus needed for the unseen wounds of combat veterans. Craig Towle, from the Brooklyn Park Veteran Center is himself a Veteran of the Iraq war. He also counsels Veterans. Craig highlighted the emotional and spiritual wounds of Veterans and how to look out for those in need around us.

Coming up

December 2: J.U.L.I.E.T. will go to Roma in Mahtomedi.

December 4, 11, 18: Advent Wednesday Meditation Services.

December 7: The annual Christmas Tea. Ben Hertle will provide the music.

Worship: Tim Orf

No report

Welcome/Hospitality: Dennis Engman

Hannah is doing a great job! The holiday season requires many volunteers, so requests are going out. After Christmas, the core team will start meeting again.

Missions: Michelle Sherman

HAITI

The trip has been postponed. Members have an opportunity to provide birthday shoes for orphans. Denise is coordinating the effort. Also asking for a \$5 donation for shipping.

HOOD

Fare For All calendar is complete. The first Garage Sale meeting was held yesterday. The Food Shelf donation approved last month was given. The diaper drive is in full swing culminating after the Thanksgiving Eve service.

HOM

Sign-ups are coming along. Need overnight hosts.

Other

Michaela Koll is working for YWAM with the homeless in San Francisco.

2020 Missions budget

A subgroup reviews, prays, and makes recommendations regarding the contributions. The Family Place closed, but we will make a donation to the Project Home Day Center. The Core Team recommends discontinuing with the following

groups: Global Horizons and Lutheran Braille since we have no clear connection with these organizations. Instead, they recommend giving to Lyngblomsten, Adult and Teen Challenge, and a monthly commitment to Michaela Koll.

Infrastructure Reports

Treasurer and Stewardship Report: Mike Mathisen

We are slightly less behind than last year. Giving has leveled off and keeping even with some recovery. Missions is funding itself well. Our goal is to end year at 1.5 million rather than 1.6 million. Mike will talk to congregation this Sunday; Jeff will be up on December 8 and Sandy on December 22. A letter will go out with November updates. For 2020, we are planning to keep the budget flat.

Facilities: Jeff Montgomery

Getting ready for Christmas. Materials are up on the metal roof, but work has not started. This is part of the insurance claim.

Secretary's Report: Maia

No report.

Vice President's Report: Jodi

Assignments as below.

President's Report: Sandy Anderson

Please wear nametags and interact with people. Listening is important, and great things are happening!

Other new business: none

November Work Assignments

Offering Auditors: 9 a.m.: Jodi; 10:30 a.m.: Ken

Devotions and refreshments for December 19: Dennis

Pastor Darrin closed in prayer. Meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Maia Hendrickson