

**COMMUNITY OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**Council Minutes**

April 15, 2021

**Call to Order & Roll Call**

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

Excused: Wendy Fitzsimmons, Tim Orf

Meeting called to order at 7:06 p.m.

Council shared highs/lows. Pastor Angie shared a devotional and opened in prayer.

The minutes from the March 2021 meeting were approved.

**Pastor Darrin's Report:**

Pastor Darrin has a meeting scheduled with a visitation Pastor candidate. By the end of April or early May, we will post the Student Ministry and Mission Associate position. The Church Staff enjoyed Holy Week and seeing about 500 people on Easter Sunday. Although our staff are in good spirits, they are also very tired. We will provide some flexibility with time off so they can refresh themselves.

Pastor Darrin shared the StratOp proposal and answered some questions.

A motion was made to approve the StratOp proposal along with the expense of \$6000 plus travel and hotel expenses. This motion passed.

**Pastor Angie's Report:**

Our current sermon series is "Seeing Grace in Every Corner." This series provides an opportunity to focus on our mission partners. May 2<sup>nd</sup> will be our Mission of Hope Sunday with President Brad Johnson providing the message. This will also be our last drive through communion Sunday. May 9<sup>th</sup> is Mother's Day, and we will focus on investing in immediate family. On May 16, church staff will share stories, and we will recognize our volunteers. Pentecost starts on May 23. The message will focus on being sent into the world with Michaela Koll and her ministry as an example. Teen Challenge Sunday will be May 30.

Starting June 6, the summer format begins. At 9 a.m., we will broadcast the Traditional Service. At 10:30 a.m., the Contemporary Service will broadcast from outdoors whenever weather permits. Our summer series will focus on the book of Matthew.

Our fall series will focus on the "Lutheran distinctives."

## **Core Team Reports**

### **Children's Ministries: Mark Schuneman for Wendy Fitzsimmons**

This year's drive-through Easter Egg Hunt brought over 100 cars. At least half were from the community. Vacation Bible School sign-up is available on the website. His Kids attendance is growing. All enjoyed watching the First Communion participants on Maundy Thursday. Please pray for Britta's family as they look for a house closer to church.

### **Student Ministries: Dan McMahon**

The final series for the year is called, "Habits." This aims at helping students develop personal habits that keep them connected to Jesus especially when students are not meeting together regularly.

The retreat for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year confirmation students is being postponed to early fall with the goal of holding it at the YMCA camp in Hudson, WI or somewhere similar. This decision was made because Covid restrictions make it difficult to hold this event at the church, and we desire to give the students a better experience after all they have missed over the last year.

On Sunday, June 13, we will recognize our graduation seniors.

Rather than doing weeklong events, the team is planning weekly activities throughout the summer.

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

As more people become vaccinated and gathering restrictions are lifted, Hannah will work with the pastors and staff to come up with creative ways for groups to gather during the summer months. Normally, this is the time when groups take a break, but this year church members may seek ways to reconnect with the church family.

### **Seniors: Ken Colberg**

Ken enjoyed the ability to join in our worship services while out of town.

### **Worship: Tim Orf**

No report. (See Pastor Angie's report.)

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

The volunteer staff is expanding. We started serving coffee and cookies outdoors. Nametag Sundays will resume on the first Sunday of each month very soon.

### **Missions: Michelle Sherman**

Mission of Hope Sunday is coming, and our goal is to raise \$25,000 in support. The Garage Sale is scheduled for June 19, and volunteer sign-ups are online.

So far, more than 40 sellers plan to participate. This event will include food trucks. Many volunteers are needed. Regarding Project Home, they moved into a new building that can house up to 100 people or 30 families. They hope to re-engage with volunteers very soon. Michaela Koll is doing well in San Francisco.

## **Infrastructure Reports**

### **Treasurer and Stewardship Report: Mike Mathisen & Jeff Montgomery**

Jeff shared an analysis of giving units. Missions continues to lag behind budget, but we will support these organizations through the general fund if needed. Core givers tend to remain strong, but those who are on the outer concentric circles have been giving less. It will take time for some to re-engage and start giving again. Through our messages, we will help reconnect our people to the importance of giving, help teach them how to give, and include a giving time during our services. Mike wisely stated, "We don't have a giving problem. We have a giving opportunity."

### **Facilities: Jeff Montgomery and Mike Mathisen**

A motion was made and seconded to authorize spending up to \$45,000 for remodeling our two main restrooms off the Commons. Discussion followed. Materials will be commercial industrial grade. Paul is working with the City of White Bear Lake regarding the need for ADA compliance. This project will use building reserve funds. This motion was approved.

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

No report.

### **Vice President's Report: Mark Schuneman**

Mark recognized Sandy for her leadership as President of the Church Council. We are all very grateful for her sacrificial service.

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

Sandy recognized Jeff Hovis for serving on the Church Council. He is stepping down.

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, April 18 at 12 noon. We need of quorum of 100 members, so all are encouraged to attend. Following the Annual Meeting, the council was reminded to remain briefly for the election of officers.

## **Other new business:**

Following discussion, the Council decided to meet on Thursday, May 13 rather than May 20.

Together, we closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm

Respectfully submitted by Maia Hendrickson