

COMMUNITY OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Post Annual Meeting

December 17, 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, Mark Schuneman, Michelle Sherman, Darrin Vick, Angie Way

Excused: Tim Orf

Meeting called to order at 7:13 p.m.

Council shared highs/lows and a favorite Christmas treat. Sandy opened in prayer.

The minutes for November were approved.

Pastor Darrin's Report:

We added another Christmas Eve service, Traditional, at 6 p.m. The 4 p.m. service is full. Council members were asked to consider moving to the 6 p.m. service if they were planning to come at 4 p.m. The Contemporary Service scheduled at 2 p.m. will be held in the Sanctuary for additional space. This permits overflow into the Fellowship Hall if needed. The 9 p.m. drive-in service continues, and the weather will likely be very cold. No indoor services will occur on the Sunday after Christmas, but on-line services will be available.

Around Easter, Otis from Mission of Hope plans to pay us a visit. For Lent this year, we will not plan any on-site Lenten services for Wednesday evenings. Different experiences are in the planning phase and include a Lenten devotional.

Pastor Angie's Report:

On January 3, 2021, Britta will share the message about the Magi. Through the rest of January, the series is entitled, "When life gives you lemons." This focuses on grief, loss and finding Jesus in the midst of pain. Members will be encouraged to write down things or people they are grieving and place them on a wall of lament. On January 23, we will offer an Immanuel Prayer online retreat. At the end of January, we will donate some of our trees for The Bear'ly Open and burn the rest. Also in January, NewTrax bus services will be offered. The quilters have their year-end numbers, and they far surpassed previous records. Bridging even wrote an article about our quilters! Well done!

Core Team Reports

Children's Ministries: Wendy Fitzsimmons

Sunday morning His Kids numbers remain consistent. Pray for God's perfect timing to get more kids back in the church. Britta and Victoria have a rhythm down with the Children's messages. Britta appreciates the opportunity to stay connected with the Council. The staff decided the Sunday morning messages are important for those who are not in-house, so they will continue. The "Kids Tell Christmas" video was completed, and it turned out great.

Student Ministries: Dan McMahon

A Christmas party with Refuge occurred last evening. Students dressed up, enjoyed music and games. About 60 people were on the call. Meetings will resume in January on Zoom. Leaders are focusing on the High School Students and encouraging them to attend worship on Sundays. The Core Team plans to create an on-site worship experience. The "Big Night" on site has been fun, but they need a worship component.

Adult Ministries: Jeff Hovis

Because of COVID-19 restrictions, in-person meetings for Growth Groups were placed on hold. Hannah sent out an email regarding the Governor's directive for no social gatherings outside of family and no more than 10 people. Now the order has changed slightly but not significantly through January 10, 2021.

Seniors: Ken Colberg

The staff are ministering to our seniors, and they appreciate it. The quilters' article made everyone proud.

Worship: Tim Orf

No report.

Welcome/Hospitality: Dennis Engman

Hannah is excited about the Christmas Eve services this year and expressed heart-felt thanks to Council volunteers for helping out.

Missions: Michelle Sherman

The Core Team helped distribute gifts to seniors. Thank you, Jeff and Diane Hovis and the church staff. Remember to sign-up to provide birthday gifts for Haiti students. This ends January 17. The Kid Packs are filling up fast, and Christi is sending out emails about this. Mission of Hope Sunday is coming around Easter.

Infrastructure Reports

Treasurer and Stewardship Report: Mike Mathisen & Jeff Montgomery

The one-page budget for 2021 proposal was reviewed. Jeff shared the projection for 2020. The year-end projection is close to budget. The staff managed expenses very well. This year, we did not use the facilities money for snow removal. We are planning on a 1,525,000 budget for 2021. No significant budget changes for each ministry except for personnel and some adjustments under operations. We also plan to keep salary levels flat, but the budget includes some bonus money for the staff (up to \$25,000) for the hard work they have done this year. This gift will come in January. This proposed budget would be \$25,000 less than the 2020 budget. This includes an additional staff member projected for mid-year, and we expect some savings with limited on-site worship in the early 2021.

Motion made to approve up to \$25,000 for employee bonuses to be paid out in January of 2021. Approved.

Motion made to approve the proposed budget for \$1,525,000. Approved.

Facilities: Mike Mathisen and Jeff Montgomery

High-definition technology was installed, and fixtures are being changed in the cove for LED lighting.

Secretary's Report: Maia Hendrickson

No report.

Vice President's Report: Mark Schuneman

No report.

President's Report: Sandy Anderson

Offering coverage for Christmas services: 2 p.m.: Jeff and Dan, 4 p.m. Mark and Jeff, 6 p.m. Sandy and Jeff, 9 p.m. Mark and Jeff. Hannah would like Council help to support seating at the Christmas services. Let her know what service you plan to attend.

Due to the pandemic, we plan to push the Annual Meeting to February 7 instead of January 17. For those members who wish to participate but feel uncomfortable being in the building, a drive-up option will be offered.

Other new business:

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Next meeting January 21, 2021

Respectfully submitted by Maia Hendrickson

December 26, 2020, Addendum:

Jeff Montgomery asked permission from the Executive Team to provide a \$5000 gift to Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp from our COVID relief fund for people and organizations. Because of the pandemic, this camp cancelled all summer programming for the first time since 1924, and they are struggling financially. This camp boldly shines the light of Jesus, and many of our staff members received training and development from this organization. The Executive Team approved this request.