

COMMUNITY OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Council Minutes

August 19, 2021

Call to Order & Roll Call

Present: Sandy Anderson, Ken Colberg, Dennis Engman, Wendy Fitzsimmons, Mike Hamernick, Maia Hendrickson, Mike Mathisen, Dan McMahon, Tim Orf, Mark Schuneman, Michelle Sherman, Darrin Vick.

Excused: Jeff Montgomery, Angie Way

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

Mike Hamernick opened our meeting with prayer. The group shared highs and lows.

Mark explained how council members support the collection of the offering and provided a sign-up form.

The minutes from the June 2021 meeting were approved as submitted.

Pastor Darrin's Report:

Coming into fall, we are making a shift with Children's ministry by having children in the worship services for the first 10 minutes at the 9 a.m. hour every week. On the first Sunday of the month, the children will remain in the worship service, and these services will include engaging content for younger ages. Students will help lead these services, and family participation will be encouraged. This starts on October 3, 2021.

The next sermon series, "The View from Here," covers key Lutheran distinctives and how we live as disciples. Topics include the Law and the Gospel, the theology of the cross, the Priesthood of believers, and the Five Solas of the Reformation.

As a supplement, Pastor Darrin will teach a class called, "A closer look" on Tuesdays 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m.

October will be busy. The LCMC gathering occurs in Columbus, OH. Strat Ops is scheduled as well.

In November, Darrin participates in the second "Leader Care" session. The first was in Colorado. In these sessions, pastors discuss health and well-being. Darrin's wife, Angela, participated as well. She and other pastor's wives plan to meet in the Twin Cities.

COVID is still among us, and we will continue to follow state mandates. Presently, masks are optional and available for those in need. We continue to provide social distancing spaces.

We have two interns: Breanna McNear and Canaan Crawford.

Other positions are presently on hold. Most churches are having trouble hiring worship and student ministry leaders.

Pastor Angie's Report:

No report.

Core Team Reports

Children's Ministries: Wendy Fitzsimmons

On the first Sunday of each month, families will stay together in the church. This helps children get comfortable sitting in the church. Presently, Britta is on vacation. Please pray that she enjoys this time with her family. She is now living in White Bear Lake. HISKids starts September 12. Sunday volunteers are looking good, but we still need some childcare support. The Core Team meets twice monthly in person. Britta has a plan for understanding the commitment of the Children's Ministry volunteers.

Student Ministries: Dan McMahon

Melinda had a vacation in July and has great energy for the new season.

This summer, the Student Ministries Team hosted student events almost every week. Recently, they went on a waterfall adventure. Next week's activities include the Summer Refuge and Back to School Level up night.

The new ministry season starts next month with the Refuge Launch Party on September 15. Because some students have medical issues, the on-site Refuge meetings will have a Zoom option.

The celebration of confirmation happens this fall. Council members are asked to consider helping with interviews on October 18-19. If interested, connect with Dan or Melinda. Dan will provide a sign-up sheet. The Confirmation make-up retreat is scheduled for September 11.

Our student ministry team is on the waiting list for a high school mission trip to Colorado in June 2022.

Adult Ministries: Mike Hamernick

Groups: The "Say Yes" campaign is now completed. This Sunday, we will hold the Connection event with 10 group options. The Core Team met to discuss the plan. We still need willing leaders. The goal is to provide easy on and off ramps for groups. This includes some short-term offerings.

Seniors: Ken Colberg

R.O.M.E.O. group meets Thursdays at Denny's and the J.U.L.I.E.T. group meets on Mondays. The Women of Grace met on August 5 for lunch and a service.

Worship: Tim Orf

Our summer 10:30 a.m. outdoor services will conclude at the end of August. Reconnecting with one another is the focus for worship. This year we demonstrated the expression of our values through how we served one another, our worship practices, and other meaningful ways of connecting. Dan is working with Canaan and Breanna to bring up the next generation.

We are still installing technology pieces that will benefit both live services and live streaming.

Irina Orf will teach three sessions regarding the Fall Feasts of Israel helping us see Jesus in these holidays. These classes are scheduled for Tuesday evenings through September.

Welcome/Hospitality: Dennis Engman

The Welcome Core team is prepared to lead during Hannah's maternity leave.

The team is looking to add volunteers.

Catalyst is coming in September and October.

Missions: Michelle Sherman

Michelle offered a special thank you to Mike and Victoria Mathisen for the Garage Sale!

The School Tools drive is complete.

Haiti suffered another earthquake and the assassination of the president. We highlighted Haiti's needs during last Sunday's services. They are struggling to get aid into some regions. Pastor Darrin is connecting with Brad and Otis with Mission of Hope, and we will continue to assess if and when we will send another group.

Plan on a supply drive for Project Home. Sara Liegl sent out an email request for volunteers, and this electronically shared with previous participants.

Michaela Koll is recovering from a concussion, so keep her in your prayers.

Cheryl Curran's group is doing outreach to the Minneapolis Police Department.

Infrastructure Reports

Treasurer and Stewardship Report: Mike Mathisen

The Corporate Resolution requires updating. Maia will complete this task.

Motion was made to adopt the amended corporate resolution, and this motion passed.

Financials were reviewed for June and July for both 2021 and compared with June and July of 2019. (2020 was an anomaly.) In comparison, we are behind budget, but we are running ahead of 2019. Expenses demonstrate that we are basically working with a fixed budget. We do not have any room to save with our expenses. Missions is behind budget, and we need to raise awareness of our smaller mission partners. Whenever members want to donate online to both the general fund and missions, two separate entries are required. It is possible that this impacts the giving to missions. We will publicize the need of these smaller organizations. In addition, we will consider having opportunities to give on Sundays at a table (swiping credit cards) after highlighting a specific mission partner.

Facilities: Mike Mathisen

The updating of the restrooms is complete, and they look wonderful. Congratulate Paul for his hard work!

As of now, Magnuson School does not plan to make any changes to the lunchroom.

Secretary's Report: Maia Hendrickson

No report.

Vice President's Report: Sandy Anderson

On kickoff Sunday, October 12, 2021, we might host a pancake/bacon/sausage breakfast. The council discussed possibilities and dates. Depending on the plans of the Magnuson School, we will consider October 3. Darrin will discuss this with the church staff, and we will learn more from the school.

President's Report: Mark Schuneman

No report.

Other new business:

Our next meeting is scheduled for September 16, 2021, at the Vick's residence.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

Meeting adjourned at 9:19 pm

Respectfully submitted by Maia Hendrickson

ADDENDUM:

Corporate Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED that President Mark Schuneman, Vice President Sandra Anderson, and Secretary Maia Hendrickson are hereby authorized to sell, assign and endorse for transfer, certificates representing stocks, bonds, or other securities now registered or hereafter registered in the name of the corporation.

I, Maia Hendrickson, Secretary of Community of Grace Lutheran Church, White Bear Lake, Minnesota, incorporated under the laws of the State of Minnesota, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Board of Directors of said corporation at a meeting duly held the 19th day of August, 2021, at which a quorum was present and voting, and that the same has not been repealed or amended and remains in full force and effect and does not conflict with the by-laws of said corporation.

(corporate seal)

Community of Grace
Lutheran Church does
not have a corporate seal

Date:_____

Secretary