

**COMMUNITY OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**Council Minutes**

September 16, 2021

**Call to Order & Roll Call**

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

Excused: All present

Meeting called to order at 7:23 p.m.

Wendy opened with devotions.

The minutes from the August 2021 Council meeting were approved as amended.

**Pastor Darrin's Report:**

We continue to monitor the realities of COVID, and our protocols are in place. The latest variant has increased exposure at our church. We saw very few cases last year and Magnuson School had only one case. This fall, Magnuson has had two cases in two weeks, so two classes are on quarantine. A couple of members have recently called to report testing positive. At this time, we will change the signs to read that masks are recommended instead of optional. On Sundays, Pastor Darrin will ask the staff to model the behavior. Pastor Angie shared that some members of her groups have difficulty hearing when people have masks on. She offered Zoom as an option. We will promote being considerate and conscientious. Mark reminded us to pray for our leaders during this difficult time.

Jeff Montgomery shared that he will officially step down from his position as finance director on Christmas Eve. He will participate in Strat Ops in October. Jeff expressed gratitude for this church family, and the council expressed tremendous gratitude for his twenty years of service.

Jeanne and Jeff will work on a video with the fourth quarter financial update. At the conclusion, Jeff will share his announcement. We will begin a search for the new executive position.

**Pastor Angie's Report:**

The new ministry season has started, and most groups are meeting in person. For her Bible Study last Wednesday night, she had twelve attendees and seven were new. She has been working many Saturdays with funerals, retreats, and weddings. Angie reports she is holding things loosely, and she is seeing unexpected things and much grace.

## **Core Team Reports**

### **Children's Ministries: Wendy Fitzsimmons**

Fifty-six students are participating in the HISKids curriculum called "Dig In." There is action to the lessons. The Core Team has two new group members: Valerie Henning and Barb Hunter. Trailblazers is scheduled for November, but it will not be an overnight experience. If needed, we will postpone until spring. Christmas program planning is underway for December 19. Because discussion about spiritual matters is critical for the spiritual development of children, the Parent 262 curriculum is underway. The Core Team is developing dialogue questions to help parents engage with the students regarding faith.

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

Refuge started yesterday. More students were on the stage than adults were. Dan reports the event was full of energy. Topics include the big questions: Who am I? Where do I fit in? What is my purpose? The "Big Night" is a night of fun and connection or a service project. This starts on the first Wednesday of each month beginning in October. Activities are on-sight with many game options. The Confirmation retreat occurred at the YMCA camp in Hudson, Wisconsin. The Confirmation interviews are coming up on October 18 and 19, and Dan sent around a sign-up.

### **Adult Ministries: Mike Hamernick**

We received over fifty responses from the Connection Event. They are posted on the website. At least fourteen groups are available for people to join. Please pray that people will want to participate in the groups, especially young adults. Hannah will be out on maternity leave, and the Core Team is prepared to cover the needs.

### **Seniors: Ken Colberg**

R.O.M.E.O. met at Denny's September 2 and J.U.L.I.E.T. on September 6 at the Village Stadium. Pastor Angie lead the Women's Circle Leaders study of Philippians on September 16, and the Senior Bible study started on September 15. The Old Guy's Bible study continues Monday mornings, and the Quilters continue to meet on Mondays and Thursdays.

### **Worship: Tim Orf**

With the new Sunday school model, staff are working to find opportunities for engagement with the children in the worship services. Dan is focused on re-connecting the worship volunteers with a team night of fellowship and spiritual development. The D.A.N.T.E. system (Digital Audio Network through Ethernet) is mostly installed and being tested. Our church is hosting a song writing retreat this weekend. Interns Breanne and Canaan will be introduced on September 26, 2021. Irina Orf has been teaching about the Fall Feasts of

Israel. About 40 people have been attending on Tuesday evenings. Mike recommended having additional worship experiences in addition to music for the students. Tim shared that he received a call from a member who would like to hear about the present financial situation. Jeff offered to connect with this person.

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

We have added some new volunteers with great energy. The team is prepared to cover for Hannah.

#### **Missions: Michelle Sherman**

Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge reached out regarding potential volunteer opportunities. Michelle will bring this to the Core Team. This could be a new way to get involved. Christi Torgusson and Jeanne Filkins planned the Diaper Drive. Michaela Koll sent an update. She will be moving back home. Financially, we will continue supporting her through the end of the year. Regarding Haiti, Darrin met with Perry Peterson and spoke with Otis. He is planning to do a vision trip. This would include a small group who would return with testimonies and help raise support. Darrin is planning to lock in some dates soon. Jeanne would like to go, and Michelle expressed interest as well.

### **Infrastructure Reports**

#### **Treasurer and Stewardship Report: Jeff and Mike**

Jeff shared the financial report by comparing the last two years. We are still under budget and under with expenses. Missions will require more assistance. After we have September's numbers, we will share a video update with the congregation.

#### **Facilities: Jeff and Mike**

The restrooms look great, and we have not heard any complaints. Contract bids are underway for the sidewalks for next spring. Once again, Interstate offered to manage our snow removal free of charge! We are considering a redesign of the conference room so we can hold Zoom meetings in that space. The cabinetry and the electrical circuits in the kitchen require attention. We asked our education partners to help keep the kitchen clean. The Children's ministry door locks were recently changed. Arlene Handlos' family stopped by with a bouquet of flowers and a donation for the Children's Ministry. Mike shared that the flat roof needs replacing soon, and we need to figure out a plan for this expense.

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

I will be out of town for our meeting in October, and Sandy graciously offered to cover the minutes.

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

No report. Thanks for the great kickoff Sunday and for helping with the breakfast.

**President's Report: Mark Schuneman**

Mark expressed appreciation for the Sunday kickoff breakfast as well. We also reviewed the offering auditors.

**Other new business:**

None

Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

Our next meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2021.

Respectfully submitted by Maia Hendrickson