

**COMMUNITY OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**Council Minutes**

December 16, 2021

**Call to Order & Roll Call**

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

Excused: Wendy Fitzsimmons, Mike Mathisen, Tim Orf

Meeting called to order at 7:07 p.m.

Mark opened with devotions.

The minutes from the November 2021 Council meeting and the Special Congregational Meeting were approved.

**Pastor Darrin's Report:**

Darrin shared thoughts about the hard times we are in: "We have done the best things in the worst times."

He shared a comparison chart showing average monthly attendance over the last five years. Our data looks similar to other churches.

The nominating committee is working hard to fill positions for next year. This is challenging, so keep them in your prayers.

This is Jeff Montgomery's last meeting with the church council as the administrator. He has done an amazing job! The future staff configuration is still under consideration.

Hannah is back from her maternity leave.

Strat Op process timelines were moved back to the week of January 9.

**Pastor Angie's Report:**

Our Advent theme is "The God who was and is and is to come."

Britta has pictures and narration for the Christmas program this Sunday. The Refuge kids are involved this year along with the pick-up choir.

The Christmas and New Year's schedule for services includes the following:

- December 24: Traditional and Contemporary Services at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. and a Traditional Candlelight Service at 9 p.m. Drive-through communion will be served on Christmas Eve
- December 25: 10 a.m. Traditional Service
- December 26: Lessons and Carols at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

- January 2: Prayer for the New Year

January 9-30: Discipleship in different seasons of life. Plan to meet others who are in the same season of life. This is an experiment.

February includes a study of the book of Galatians.

## **Core Team Reports**

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

HISKids attendance is around thirty. The core team is working to help kids feel more a part of the services.

For the Christmas program, students will provide the art and narration. They will also provide sign language for "Go Tell it on the Mountain."

The Parents of Grace gatherings on Sunday mornings are meeting the needs of some parents. For example, one mom was struggling with how to answer her son's faith questions and found these discussions helpful.

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

Refuge held a Christmas party last night and will take a break. The next "Big Night" will be in January. The Estes Park mission trip has been confirmed. Watch for upcoming fundraisers.

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

The Core Team is focused on Christmas, and new activities will start in the New Year.

There will be an "After Party" on January 9. This is a time for new attendees to meet and greet the pastors and learn a little more about CGLC. It will happen in between services and after the 10:30 a.m. service.

In February, there will be an "Ask Away" session with February 20 as the proposed date, but it could change. Although the topic has not been finalized, the intent is to have this session before Lent begins.

This spring will include another Connections Event sometime around Lent. The focus will be on forming more growth groups and helping members grow deeper in the faith. We will encourage members to join for a defined timeframe rather than indefinitely and provide easy "on and off ramps."

Participants from Darrin's Tuesday night discipleship class had attendees wanting to grow deeper, so they formed a growth group.

### **Seniors: Ken Colberg**

Thursday, December 2, R.O.M.E.O. met at Denny's and J.U.L.I.E.T. met at Don Julio's on Monday December 6. The Old Guy's Bible study continues on Monday mornings, and the Quilters continue to meet on Mondays and Thursdays. Senior Bible Studies continue on Wednesdays. Fare For All had a great turnout on December 10.

Rose Gustafson's family sent a lovely thank you note for CGLC's support.

### **Worship: Tim Orf**

No report. See Pastor Angie's report.

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

The Welcome Team needs more ushers for the contemporary service.

### **Missions: Michelle Sherman**

"Give a Gobble" gift was given to the Food shelf. They need help to meet growing needs.

Project HOM is not utilizing volunteers yet. Funds were given for coats and boots in November.

The Diaper Drive resulted in 32,000 diapers being collected.

The Haiti hostages are finally free after two months of captivity! The plan is to collect gifts for Haiti through January 2. The plan is to set up a table this Sunday and move this information up in the eNote. Mission of Hope is planning food-packing events, so we will explore this opportunity. Plan for something after Easter.

Our youth may help with a hygiene drive for Project HOM.

## **Infrastructure Reports**

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

The financial summary was reviewed. We are tracking close to our giving over the last two years. We had a very strong November, and we are catching up. This Sunday, we will tell them we need \$229,000. Contributions to Service & Missions are still lagging.

The council reviewed the present budget projections and previewed the proposed budget for 2022. The proposed budget is set for some increases over actual 2021 expenses for Worship, Groups, Service and Care. Operations will increase for insurances and utility costs. Pray for a successful year-end so we can be in a strong position for our annual meeting. We will work with actual year-end numbers before finalizing the 2022 budget recommendations.

**Facilities: Jeff Montgomery**

Jeff briefly discussed the roof plan.

**Secretary's Report: Maia Hendrickson**

No report.

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

No report.

**President's Report: Mark Schuneman**

Offerings for this Sunday: Mark S. and Maia will cover 9 a.m., and Ken and Sandy will cover 10:30 a.m.

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 30.

Plan to have our next Council Meeting on January 13, the second Thursday, instead of third.

**Other new business:**

The council prayed blessings over Jeff Montgomery.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Our next meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2022.

Respectfully submitted by Maia Hendrickson