

**COMMUNITY OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**Church Council Minutes**

January 13, 2022

**Call to Order & Roll Call**

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

Excused: Dennis Engman, Mike Hamernick

Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Pastor Angie opened in prayer.

The minutes from the December 2021 Council meeting were approved.

**Pastor Darrin's Report:**

Pastor Darrin offered a thank you for support over the Christmas holidays. Attendance was around 50% of pre-Covid numbers. Thanks to Pastor Angie for the Christmas program on Dec. 19, 2021. The additional services over the Christmas and New Year's weekend went well.

Upcoming staff changes include moving Dan into a pastoral role. The job description is under development. Dan's position will most likely be Discipleship Pastor. Through the Strat Ops process, we learned that we have a need to disciple young families. This means transitioning Dan and finding a new worship leader. Dan already has his Master's in Divinity Degree.

Our mission, vision and values for this congregation will continue the same.

Next fall, we will start a preaching cycle called the "Narrative Lectionary." This is a four-year cycle starting with the Old Testament and progressing toward the gospels. It develops a rich understanding of scripture.

**Pastor Angie's Report:**

Pastor Angie shared the preaching series outline for 2022. Presently, we are in a series titled "Seasons." In February, we will study the book of Galatians with a short-term discussion group option. The tentative Lenten plan includes Wednesday evening soup suppers and Lenten services around faith practices. Holy week, we will add another pick-up choir in both venues. The spring series will be "Love in Community." The summer series will center on the book of Hebrews. We may offer outdoor services on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> weekends. In the fall, we will begin the "Narrative Lectionary."

## Core Team Reports

### Children's Ministries: Wendy Fitzsimmons

The core team agreed that the children probably got more out of the Christmas story by supporting the Christmas program with the drawings and narrations. Parents of Grace will extend to include parents of all student ages. Upcoming opportunities include a class for parents of adult children.

The Core Team wants to provide childcare for the Annual Meeting. Let Britta or Victoria know of anyone who could help. The Council discussed the Egg Hunt. This may happen on the Saturday, April 9, before Easter. This year, we will plan to have the event indoors.

### Student Ministries: Dan McMahon

The current message series is entitled, "Counterfeit," and it is about moving beyond copying the behavior of others to actually following Jesus. It focuses on how to make faith our own instead of just going through the motions.

The "Big Night" for February will be snow tubing at Green Acres. Sign-ups are available for the Sr. High mission trip in June.

- The first fundraiser will be a pasta lunch prior to the annual meeting on January 30.
- The team is starting to plan for another fundraiser that requires Council approval. They would like to sell T-Shirts. Planning is in the early stages, but the leadership wants to make sure this request gains approval before moving forward. Melinda would like to have a small table set up in the Commons with a couple of volunteers:
  - February 20
  - May 22
  - Possibly Ash Wednesday, March 2

The motion was made to approve the request for high school students/Refuge participants to sell T-shirts as a fundraiser with final dates to be determined.

This motion was approved.

### Adult Ministries: Mark Schuneman shared for Mike Hammernick

The "Seasons Groups" will occur from 10–10:30 a.m. on Sundays January 16, 23, and 30. These sessions are designed to help members connect with others in the same seasons, share experiences, and work alongside each other. They are meant to provide low-key opportunities for connection between the 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services. Hannah is reviewing the cards for group formation and looking at the write-in options for other areas of consideration. If this is a successful event for the congregation, we will have these connection events twice a year.

The next "Ask Away" event is scheduled for Sunday, February 20, at 6:30 p.m. The topic is "Religion and Politics." Hannah will be the host for the evening. She will take questions through anonymous text messages and relay them to a panel. She will set the boundaries to ensure it is a safe space for good dialogue and conversation. Hannah plans to create a panel with different perspectives to show how to agree to disagree. Although members have differing points of view, they all have Jesus in common. This will be an opportunity to challenge each person's viewpoint, bring humanity to all sides, and leave stating, "I love you, and I love Jesus..." Hannah is looking for qualified panel members. Contact Hannah if someone comes to mind.

**Seniors: Ken Colberg**

R.O.M.E.O. met at Denny's January 6, and J.U.L.I.E.T. met on January 3 at Carbone's.

The Old Guy's Bible study continues Monday mornings.

The Quilters continue to meet on Mondays and Thursdays. Last year, they produced over seven hundred quilts!

The Senior Bible Studies continue Wednesdays with Pastor Angie.

The Valentines Banquet luncheon is scheduled for February 10.

Circles are going strong.

Fare For All happens tomorrow.

**Worship: Tim Orf**

The Team is looking for an assistant for Shane Stambaugh. James Mattson has been helping. The DANTE audio system is on hold for now, but we plan to have it activated this month. After January 16, we will use GracePeople.live thru YouTube.

Updates to the Community room include some hotspot speakers and smart TVs with remotes. This will add some broadcast resources.

**Welcome/Hospitality: Dennis Engman**

No report.

**Missions: Michelle Sherman**

We covered all the requested Haiti birthday gifts.

## Infrastructure Reports

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

We finished the year under by \$33,524 so God provided! Presently, the reserve account still has approximately \$540,000 after the check to Pinnacle. Jeanne will create a slide to share this great news on Sunday.

So far, we have \$113,000 pledges and gifts for Canopy of Grace Campaign. Once the initial campaign is complete, we will plan to take the remainder out of Reserve Funds.

The council reviewed the proposed 2022 budget.

A motion was made to approve the proposed 2022 budget at 1.5 million and bring it to the Annual Meeting for a congregational vote.

This motion was approved.

Regarding the Canopy of Grace, our engineering study cost only \$600. We can ballast the entire roof. This saves us \$90,000-100,000. We plan to start in March.

### **Facilities: Mike Mathisen**

The concrete work on sidewalks will wait until the roof work is completed.

LADC would like to install some additional fire detection equipment to add more infant care.

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

No report. It has been an honor to serve on the council.

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

Sandy also expressed that it has been an honor to serve on this remarkable Council.

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

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 30, 2022. The nominating committee is having trouble filling all the present positions. In case they are unable to fill the last council position, we plan to adjust the number of positions.

A motion was made that, if needed, we will fill only three of the four open council positions in 2022. The new council will meet after the Annual Meeting for a brief election of the officers.

Council members reviewed the offering schedule.

**Other new business: None**

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

The Council closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for February 17, 2022.

Respectfully submitted by Maia Hendrickson