

COMMUNITY OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Council Minutes

August 20, 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.

Excused: Tim Orf, Angie Way.

Meeting called to order at 7:08 p.m.

Devotions: Michelle Sherman

Minutes for June approved along with the two additional motions regarding the air conditioning and cameras for livestreaming.

NOTE: The Council enjoyed a social time in July, so no meeting minutes available.

Pastor Darrin's Report:

Discussed the proposed schedule for fall worship services. On Labor Day Sunday, no services will occur on campus. Pastor Darrin will provide a video message about Sabbath rest.

The fall schedule begins September 13 with this schedule:

9 a.m.: Livestream Contemporary Worship. This will remain the same.

10:30 a.m.: Traditional Service will move from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. with the same format lasting 45 minutes. Social distancing, masks, and designated traffic flow in the building continue. This service will include communion and leaving the building promptly thereafter. The capacity in the sanctuary is about 125.

10:30 a.m.: Will try "Worship Gatherings," a hybrid of "Grace Gatherings." While weather permits, these will occur on the lawn like over the summer months. When weather prohibits outdoor worship, the service will move into the Fellowship Hall. The gathering will start with a welcome, creed and announcements. Next, a ten-minute message will be delivered followed by small group breakouts to discuss what was shared. This is not a Bible study, but members will discuss, "What is God saying to you through the text and the message?" Groups will pray together in community. Some weeks, we will serve communion in these breakout groups. Following the discussion, members will return to the large group, worship together with singing and/or baptisms, and receive a dismissal blessing.

The plan is to follow this pattern through September. For the first Sunday each month, starting in October, the 10:30 a.m. contemporary worshipers are encouraged to gather in homes. The online service will continue at 9 a.m., and the Traditional Service continues at 10:30 a.m. every Sunday. We will try the worship gatherings for at least 5

weeks, through mid-October, and evaluate along the way. This new worship style provides members a chance to experience Jesus in new ways and become more than passive observers. We know that the Holy Spirit is asking us to trust and be willing to stretch ourselves. Many churches are seeing a steady decline in attendance. If we do not make any changes, our next generations may miss loving Jesus and seeing grace in every corner of our community. This is the vision.

Children's Ministry will happen when we are in the building. Kids will gather in the Children's Ministry Center and "have fun with Jesus." The nursery will be available as well.

COVID cleaning protocols are in place. The nursery will follow the same protocols as LADC. So far, no members of our congregation have reported contracting COVID-19.

MOTION made to authorize the fall ministry plan as proposed by Pastor Darrin and the staff. Motion approved.

Pastor Angie's Report: No report

Core Team Reports

Children's Ministries: Wendy Fitzsimmons

Britta and Victoria asked for prayer regarding the comfort of teachers with our fall plan. This year's VBS brought in many kids from our community!

Student Ministries: Dan McMahon

Fall programming has been delayed so that the students can adjust to their new school schedules. Initially, meetings will be held over Zoom with a monthly activity on site. Younger students will enjoy games and older students may meet off site and/or do a service project.

Adult Ministries: Jeff Hovis

No report.

Seniors: Ken Colberg

No report.

Worship: Tim Orf

No report

Welcome/Hospitality: Dennis Engman

No report.

Missions: Michelle Sherman

Denise and Joy have been working on the Progressive Garage Sale beginning this week. Many contributed to the School Tools Drive.

Michelle shared a letter from Michaela Cole. She asks that we pray for guidance as she considers her next steps.

Infrastructure Reports

Treasurer and Stewardship Report: Mike Mathisen and Jeff Montgomery

Overall, our financial story is looking good. Our decrease in expenses offsets our shortfall in income. We have still placed money in savings. We used \$169,200 in SBA funds. We are presently operating at a net positive of \$75,542. Discussion occurred about potential support for the missions' budget.

Facilities: Jeff Montgomery

The air conditioning units were replaced. The cameras for livestreaming are in process.

Secretary's Report: Maia

No report.

Vice President's Report: Mark Schuneman

Mark offered a special word of thanks to the staff for their leadership.

President's Report: Sandy Anderson

No report.

Other new business: none

Pastor Darrin closed in prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Next meeting September 17, 2020.

Respectfully submitted by Maia Hendrickson