

COMMUNITY OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Council Minutes

November 19, 2020

Call to Order & Roll Call

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

Excused: Jeff Montgomery and Tim Orf

Meeting called to order at 7:10 p.m.

Council shared highs/lows.

Devotions: Opening prayer by Pastor Angie.

Minutes for October approved.

Pastor Darrin's Report:

Several different Christmas plans are in place. Plan A includes an in-house contemporary service at 2 p.m., a traditional service at 4 p.m. and a 9 p.m. drive-in service. If projected volumes are high, we will add services at 12 noon and 6 p.m. Plan B consists of 2 p.m., 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. drive-in services. Plan C would be pre-recorded online services only with both traditional and contemporary options. So far, plan A is in place. The pre-recorded versions will be ready for both traditional and contemporary. For plan A, sign-ups will start after Thanksgiving. If last minute changes are needed, the Executive Team will help with the decision. The outdoor banners will communicate the plan, and we will consider overflow spaces if needed. The 4 p.m. service is typically our busiest hour. The drive-in service will have communion, but not the other services.

The owner of Anchor Coffee reached out and asked if we would partner with him. Dan Lugo spends a lot of time there, and he has been very generous to us. Unfortunately, they cannot be open right now, and the business is hurting. We do not want to see this business fail. The recommendation is to ask people to contribute funds for blessing the fire/police/White Pines/teachers at Magnuson and LADC staff with baked goods from Anchor Coffee. Plan to bring this idea to the congregation. This will help Anchor Coffee and be a blessing to others in our community.

Pastor Angie's Report:

The congregation received an Advent Devotional and Christmas at Home materials. Many staff and volunteers made this happen. We had an online spiritual retreat last weekend. Ten attended, and it was a powerful time. Wednesday Bible Study continues. The quilters have surpassed their previous annual record in October! They are blessing many agencies. Congratulations to Every Tribe and Tongue; they have had 3000 hits! The upcoming series after Christmas is "When Life Gives You Lemons." This will focus on seeing how God can use difficult circumstances. Following that series, we will focus on the Ten Commandments- Loving God and Loving People.

Core Team Reports

Children's Ministries: Wendy Fitzsimmons

Britta led the Trailblazer Retreat last Saturday. One parent reported that her son already talked about returning next year. On Sunday mornings, they are averaging twenty kids, and usually they are the same kids. Children's Ministries are sending out a scratch Advent Calendar. Britta and Victoria plan to send a round of postcards to the kids. This was appreciated last year. Britta appreciates prayers for protection, wisdom, and encouragement. Please pray for her family as they adjust to the inability to go to school, darker and colder days. They also lost their dog.

Student Ministries: Dan McMahon

Students continue meeting on Zoom with 55-75 attending. Meetings include a mix of games, a message, and small group discussions. The current message series is about how and why to read the Bible for yourself. "BIG NIGHT" continues. Ten students were confirmed. A few more will be confirmed in the spring.

Adult Ministries: Jeff Hovis

A discussion occurred about in-person group sessions including Growth Groups and AA in response to the Governor's recent Executive Order to dial-back on social gatherings. This will be reviewed with the church staff next Tuesday and a communication will be sent out shortly after that staff meeting.

Seniors: Ken Colberg

Several seniors were pleased to hear about the 9 a.m. Traditional Service time. Fare For All includes many senior volunteers with over 130 families served.

Worship: Tim Orf

No report.

Welcome/Hospitality: Dennis Engman

Two greeters and a core team member help each Sunday. The pool of volunteers is low right now. May need help from the Church Council.

Missions: Michelle Sherman

We recently provided the White Bear Food Shelf with a donation of \$3000, and we filled slots for distribution. The WBL KidPack is going well. Perry Peterson plans to deliver our Diaper Drive diapers for us. The collection of diapers runs up through Thanksgiving Eve. We still need more volunteers to collect diapers. Care packages for seniors is underway: Jeff and Diane Hovis will assemble them. Hannah collected items. Plans are underway to support Mission of Hope in Haiti, but no details are available yet. The mission's budget discussions are underway. The plan is to keep the budget flat for 2021 with minor line-item changes. Christi and Jeanne are working hard with the Missions Committee and doing a great job.

Infrastructure Reports

Treasurer and Stewardship Report: Mike Mathisen

Through October, we are about forty thousand behind last year. We project a \$375,000 shortfall. The SBA funds helped us, but we do not want to rely on them. For 2021, the budget will remain flat to our existing budget. We are about \$11,000 behind in missions, and reserve dollars for missions will offset this shortfall.

Jeff will work on the budget, and it will look similar to this year.

Facilities: Mike Mathisen

We are still waiting on the ionizing units for sanctuary and offices. Sanctuary lighting is changing to LED lighting. Electric companies are offering incentives and offsetting this expense. We will also make some changes in the Fellowship Hall stage lighting. Snow removal will be gratis again, and this is a huge blessing!

Secretary's Report: Maia

Wishing a special happy birthday to Angie. Her birthday is tomorrow!

Vice President's Report: Mark Schuneman

Mark shared a story about the offering note that said, "God bless the work you are doing." There are many ways to give offerings....

President's Report: Sandy Anderson

Let Sandy know if anyone needs help with offering and/or other volunteer opportunities. The Nominating Committee is asking some council members to consider serving another term.

Other new business:

Wendy offered words of encouragement, reminded us to be thankful and closed in prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Next meeting December 17, 2020.

Respectfully submitted by Maia Hendrickson

Pastor Angie added an addendum: The Prayer Vigil is scheduled for December 27. While praying, consider blessing those on the route with the baked goods from Anchor Coffee.