

## **Community of Grace Lutheran Church Council Minutes**

**March 16, 2023**

### **Call to Order and Roll Call**

Present: Carl Albing, Stephanie Battista, Carol Carlson, Mike Duesenberg, Dennis Engman, Mike Hamernick, Andy Hennig, Sam Hunter, Mike Mathisen, Mark Schuneman, Michelle Sherman, Darrin Vick, Angie Way.

Excused: Wendy Fitzsimmons

Meeting called to order at 7:04 pm

Devotions shared by Stephanie Battista. Devotions for April will be Carol Carlson.

Highs and lows – Council shared personal items.

### **Approval of minutes**

- The minutes from the February Council meeting were amended and approved.

### **Pastor Darrin's Report**

- The vision trip to the Dominican Republic will be announced to the congregation on Sunday, March 19.
- Feedback for the new schedule and programming for Lenten Services was requested and discussed.

### **Pastor Angie's Report**

- Lenten services continue as we approach Easter.
- On the Wednesday of Holy week, 4/5/23 there will be a taste of a Seder meal led by Irina Orf.
- Maundy Thursday services will be at 4:30 pm and 6:30 pm for First Communion.
- Good Friday services will include an 11:30 am traditional service and a 7:00 pm teen and adult service.
- Easter services will include a 7:30 am traditional service and 9:00 am and 10:30 am simultaneous traditional and contemporary services.
- March prayer focus has been confession and forgiveness. The next prayer focus will start the Sunday after Easter and will be "living into the Resurrection". Copies of the book, "Living the Resurrection" have been ordered by Joe Ehrman, the prayer champion for April.
- Discussion and feedback from the congregation regarding the replacement of the chapel pews with chairs has been largely positive. A few concerns have been expressed by members, due to personal connections to the chapel. Overall, the chapel can now be utilized in a more flexible and welcoming way.

### **Children's Ministry – Wendy Fitzsimmons (presented by Mark Schuneman)**

- The Egg Hunt will be on Saturday, April 1 from 9 am to noon. We are expecting attendance of 1,000 people or more. Setup will be on Friday night, 3/31/23.

- Camp Shamineau will be the venue for a retreat for 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders from April 14 – April 16. A few more adult leaders are needed.
- Next core meeting is on May 8<sup>th</sup>, with a focus on Vacation Bible School that is scheduled for the last week of June.
- A list of prayer requests for the Dream Big committee was distributed.
- Discussion related to the Dream Big committee:
  - A consultant will be engaged to meet with the Dream Big committee.
  - An idea was shared for a youth center for the community. Pastor Darrin encouraged the council to email ideas to him or Mike Hamernick.

#### **Students – Stephanie Battista**

- Connected with Andrew and Melinda.
- Students will have planned activities during the week of VBS.

#### **Service and Missions – Mike Duesenberg**

- The vision trip is scheduled March 20 to 23 to the Dominican Republic with Otis from Mission of Hope. Pastor Darrin, Hannah Collins, and Michelle Sherman are going. We will consider sending a team down to the DR in 2024. Please pray for safe travel.
- MOH food packing event fundraiser starts April 16. We will be raising \$25,500 to send meals to Haiti with a meal packing event in the fall.
- MOH Partnership Sunday is coming up on May 21 and Brad Johnson will be attending this year.
- The garage sale is planned for June 17, and Hannah has requested to keep this event in your prayers. The team has met twice and will be reaching out to key volunteers soon. Please be praying about how you might be able to serve this year. This is the first year Hannah is the service person from staff.
- Monthly contributions for General Service and Missions were \$2,341.00, which is \$1,459.00 below the monthly expense outlay of \$3,800.00. YTD contributions to General Service and Missions through February were \$6,536.00 which is \$1,064.00 YTD below our expense outlay of \$7,600.
- Fare for all will be May 12<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Seniors – Carol Carlson**

- Quilting group made 440 quilts in 2022, as well as prayer shawls and other items.
- Carol joined the JULIET group for a delightful lunch.
- ROMEO group met at Denny's.
- Carol talked with Pastor Mary Ellen, and they will be meeting on Sunday. Her volunteer group has packed 100 bags to deliver to Seniors for Easter.

#### **Worship – Sam Hunter**

- Sam is planning to meet with Dan, Andrew, and Mark
- Additional cross-over worship styles are being considered.
- Additional training is being planned for the tech crew.
- Sanctuary audio system quote has been obtained by Mike Mathisen.

**Groups – Carl Albing**

- No report

**Adults/Welcome – presented by Dennis Engman**

- Additional contemporary ushers have signed up.
- Orange wall update to include more first and next steps.
- Catalyst starts April 16<sup>th</sup> and ten people have signed up so far.

**Treasurer's Report – Andy Hennig and Mike Mathisen**

- Reviewed January General Operating fund actuals and balances, including Missions funding.
- Reviewed and explained the Endowment fund balances.
- Reviewed Reserved Fund balances. A new balance was added to reflect the amount that needs to be replenished.
- Reviewed Canopy of Grace balances. The final payment was recently made to Pinnacle since they completed the work on the roof, and it was inspected by Paul. The payment is not reflected in the February report but will be reflected in the March report.
- CGLC 2023 budget by ministry area for February was distributed for review.
- A checking account for the Women's ministry area has been moved under separate designated accounts within the church's main account.

**Facilities – Mike Mathisen**

- Several pews that were removed from the chapel are still available to the congregation.
- An exploratory team is looking into Solar panels for our building, with no expense outlay from the church. The team will include Mike Mathisen, Paul Wetterling, two council members, and two members from the congregation.
- Congregation Consulting Services (CCS) is working with churches for eligibility for the Employee Retention Credit. This is a free consultation unless the church receives proceeds. In that case, their fee will be on a sliding scale. The results of their analysis will be brought to the council for approval.
- CCS is also being considered for an external audit in the fall. More details regarding fees and a schedule will be provided at the April council meeting.
- Four major projects are on the horizon that will eventually need to be funded: Elevator, organ, Sanctuary sound and hearing loop (arrayed speaker system), and two projectors in the Fellowship Hall.

**Secretary – Michelle Sherman**

- Lenten meals are a blessing to see the church family of all generations sharing a meal together. Thank you to the volunteers who are making this possible.
- Looking forward to the vision trip to the Dominican Republic.

**Vice President – Mike Hamernick**

- Annual meeting of the audit committee was conducted on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Accounts receivable policy and accounts payable policies were reviewed with Mike and Sue. Samples were reviewed by the committee with no findings.

**President – Mark Schuneman**

- April Offering – Michelle has 9 am contemporary, Carl has 9 am traditional, and Mark has 10:30 contemporary.
- Holy week and Easter offering helpers will be needed – Mark will send out a signup.
- The April Council meeting will be held on 4/20/23.

**Other New Business**

- None

Meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Sherman