

COMMUNITY OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Council Minutes

September 17, 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, Tim Orf, Mark Schuneman, Michelle Sherman, Darrin Vick, Angie Way

Excused: All present

Meeting called to order at 7:06 p.m.

Devotions: Group shared highs and lows.

Minutes for August approved with corrections.

Pastor Angie's Report

She walked us through the preaching series outline and service schedule. This is subject to change.

The "Unchanging" series started September 13 and runs through the end of September. For October and November, the series is "Represent."

Since choirs are unable to resume at this time, Ishaya's position has been suspended. A special drive-thru communion is scheduled for October 4 with the opportunity to thank him for his service.

For the Thanksgiving Eve Service on Wednesday, November 25, the plan is for a drive-in service, drive-through communion and pie. The Diaper Drive concludes on this evening.

For Advent, families will receive a weekly devotional and a special Advent Candle Set through padded mailers by November 15. Congregational members who live in assisted living or care centers will receive electric tea lights instead of regular candles. Additional ideas are under development.

Rather than decorating the inside of the commons and the worship spaces, we will provide an inspiring lighted tree grove on the front lawn. The purpose is to demonstrate Christ's love through beauty. The cost will be about \$4000.

Dates and times for online Advent "Caroling" and Hymn Sings are pending.

Christmas Eve: Thursday, December 24.

Pre-recorded services

- Traditional - with children's story, sermon, and Hallelujah Chorus video
- Contemporary - with children's story and sermon

Drive-in services: bonfires by entrance, luminaries lining the rows, hand out candles, communion, children's packs, lyric sheets for each car upon arrival

- 2 p.m.: family-friendly, communion, possible sledding during the service by Britta
- 4 p.m.: family-friendly, communion, candlelight
- 9 p.m.: traditional communion, candlelight

Christmas Day: Friday, December 25, (pending)

December 27: Prayers for the New Year. Pre-recorded plus a prayer for the community and a scavenger hunt/mobile prayer vigil

Pastor Darrin's Report

With a staff restructure, Denise Cabak's position has been eliminated. Pastor Darrin read a letter that will be shared with the congregation about this change. All will be encouraged to reach out to Denise, send cards and notes rather than having a reception during this COVID time. At this time, restructuring does not include losing other existing positions. We plan to add a position focused on young adults, music and youth ministry. Regarding missions, a team-oriented approach will support this piece of Denise's role with congregational ownership and help from the church staff.

Core Team Reports

Children's Ministries: Wendy Fitzsimmons

For the first week back in the building, Britta and Victoria had 22 kids for HisKids, and they were pleased with this. In answer to our prayers, they had enough volunteers. Biggest concern from Britta is that there is a lot of questions and confusion about changes in the services. Please pray that communication continues to bring clarity regarding the changes.

Student Ministries: Dan McMahon

Refuge leaders met last evening to make plans. It kicks off next Wednesday, and the majority of the meetings will be on Zoom. Fortunately, we have had great success and engagement with our students on Zoom. They start with a message; break into small groups for three weeks. On "The Big Night," students will meet on site creatively and safely. The first Wednesday in October, middle school students will pick games and the high school kids will have bonfires. First message is about judging others.

Confirmation happens in November, so confirmation interviews happen in October. Council members are being asked to participate on October 19 and 20. A sign-up link

is coming from Dan. You may select Zoom meetings or in-person interviews at the church.

Adult Ministries: Jeff Hovis

Some Growth Groups are meeting, but others are holding off. Grace Gatherings are becoming part of our Sunday contemporary services at 10:30 a.m.

Seniors: Ken Colberg

Angie reports that the Senior Bible Study met on Facebook Live. Seniors will have options for Zoom discussions and Facebook Live as well. For Women's Circles, they are studying Thessalonians. Some want to meet in the building, and MaryNell is offering a once-a-month Zoom meeting study. Arrangements are underway for some on-site meetings. Quilters have been very productive with quilts, bonnets, facemasks including children's masks for VBS.

Worship: Tim Orf

As part of the fall worship schedule, we will celebrate a Sabbath Day of rest on Labor Day weekend, and it felt like "a breath of fresh air." We are starting Worship Gatherings and the Traditional Service at 10:30 a.m., and continuing a 9:00 a.m. Contemporary Service online. We are welcoming an intern: Breanna McNear, a double major music ministry and creative arts. She will also help with Refuge Worship. Dan is starting a Grace People podcast in October. This will be an on-ramp to inviting people into our community. Technical updates for the livestream are coming soon.

Last month, Noelle Norman made great contributions to our worship services, especially Refuge services.

Welcome/Hospitality: Dennis Engman

The Welcome Team is adding greeters, ushers and orange wall volunteers.

Missions: Michelle Sherman

The Core Team has a meeting coming up to consider service opportunities. Due to COVID, we are unable to have our typical January trip to Haiti, but the team is looking for other opportunities to help them.

Michaela Koll will move in with friends in January. She is still praying about her YWAM commitment and looking for monthly supporters.

Infrastructure Reports

Treasurer and Stewardship Report: Jeff Montgomery

We continue to be down in respect to income and savings at about the same amount. Presently, we are under budget by \$111,275, but last year we were down 175,000. Through August, we began trailing in our giving for the first time this year. Regardless, we placed \$66,664 in savings. With the SBA Funds of \$169,200, our NET operating is a positive \$57,925.

Missions is under by about \$8000. We moved \$5000 from general fund into the missions.

In October, a letter will go out with giving statements to help us have a strong fourth quarter. This letter will be available through the website and e-note as well.

Facilities: Jeff Montgomery

We are discussing the possibility of hiring someone to help with some housekeeping (a part-time role). Our Endowment Fund has grown this year. Our building is in use for the schools.

Secretary's Report: Maia

No report.

Vice President's Report: Mark Schuneman

No report.

President's Report: Sandy Anderson

Discussed the possibility of meeting together for the next Council meeting.

Wendy shared that her husband had been nervous about participating in the Worship Gatherings, but he ended up leading the conversation. We will pray for growth in this area.

Other new business: none

Pastor Darrin closed in prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Next meeting October 15, 2020.

Respectfully submitted by Maia Hendrickson