

Grace Lutheran Church Council
March 9, 2023

Grace Lutheran Church Council met on March 9, 2023 with the following members present: Gary Anderson, Steve Blausey, Mike Schlievert, Mary Schlievert, Deb Boos, Joan Eckermann, Nancy Pries, Karen Hammel, Pastor Jaci, and guest, Joyce Bruntz.

President Gary Anderson called the meeting to order. Pastor Jaci offered opening prayer.

Good News and Announcements were shared:

Ash Wednesday had 36 worshippers and mid-week services have had between 14-18 worshippers.

The Piecemakers have nearly completed 152 quilts.

The photo directory has been distributed.

We are blessed to have an awesome substitute organist.

The Prayer List was updated.

The February 9, 2023 Secretary's Report was approved.

The February 2023 Financial Report was approved. Linda Jacobs and Mark Haar are serving as Audit Committee members and are expected to complete the 2022 audit soon.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Jaci

Jessica and Tyler Wirick's beautiful and fun wedding was February 18th.

Ash Wednesday services went very well between the two churches.

The mid-week Lenten pastor rotations are going well.

Funeral for Elsie Pavuk at Bethlehem (102 years old) was well attended.

Prayers for our previous Bishop Marcus Lohrman.

Prayers for people of East Palenstine. We have been approached by Calvary Lutheran to collect money for bottled water to help the East Palenstine, Ohio community.

Board of Congregational Life – Reported by Mary Schlievert

Old Business

- Advent Soup Suppers went well!
- Photo Directory Progress-Done and delivered!
- Annual Meeting and Potluck was held on Sunday January 22nd. Close to 50 people attended.
- Prayer Partners–Forgot to pull names at Annual Meeting. One name left in—need to follow up.
- Valentine activity Feb 12th. Distributed flowers and chocolate, got 5 dozen carnations this year. Kind of pricey. From Wistinghausen in Oak Harbor. Will investigate different source next year.
- Lenten Soup Suppers underway. First week we had 5 crocks and lots of breads!
- Gary and Pastor Jaci re-organized funeral meals, Amy Simkus and Karen Hammel are in charge. List of helpers acquired.
- Cleaned fellowship hall closet. Some junk left—can throw out. Sharon Dailey to come pick up Christian Women's Breakfast supplies.

New Business

- Easter Sunday-cookies, punch, and coffee after worship.
- Kitchen purge and clean up? Date? Summer? A couple drawers need fixed.
- Mothers' Day: May 14, will do Muffins for Moms.
- Pentecost picnic—It is Memorial Day weekend. Mary will put out a sign-up and see if there is interest. Can also do next year when it's not a holiday.
- Fathers' Day: June 18, Donuts for Dads.
- Rally Day: Sept. 10th, Ice Cream Social.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 9th at 6 p.m. prior to choir.

Board of Property – Reported by Steve Blausey

The Board of Property met on March 5 with 5 members present. We opened with devotions. Steve read the February report. Old Business - Steve thanked the Avers family for removing the bad fridge in the basement. Steve also thanked everyone for their helping hands in painting of the Sunday school room a couple of weeks ago. The

library is now painted, too, and we will be moving on to another room soon. We are also going to order more LED lights to replace some older units in the classrooms. Some discussion was also made on the vacant space created by the departure of the OCS, but no real suggestions were made.

Miscellaneous - Steve read a letter from Amy Simkus asking about the need for placing RESTROOM signs in strategic locations within the building to assist visitors in finding restrooms. This board will investigate and come up with a plan for this.

New Business - Randy was informed by our tenant that the parsonage was leaking after Friday's heavy rains, with water dripping from the utility room ceiling. Steve investigated on Saturday and patched an area he thought may have been the culprit letting water in. We will wait until a few more rains have occurred to make sure it is repaired before repainting the ceiling. Randy also reported that the OCS requested their modem back and he got it to them. Randy also stated that Mark Haar has started to help with the collecting of water samples. There was no other business so we adjourned and said The Lord's Prayer.

Board of Witness and Mission – Reported by Nancy Pries

The Witness and Mission Board met for a short meeting, Sunday morning February 19, 2023 at 9:30. Jayne Klett, John Heminger, Amy Simkus and Nancy Pries were present. There will be five Wednesday evening bread and soup suppers before Lenten Services. There will be a donation basket for additional funds for our Lenten Project, Water Filters for ELCA Good Gifts project. Each costing \$30.00. They don't require electricity nor chemicals. The money in the mid-week extra envelopes in our packets will also go to this project.

We plan to send out, as we did at Christmas, a colorful post card within a 6 mile radius of Elmore, an invitation to our Easter services.

Jayne is rebooting our Christian Education at Grace. March 26th is Mission Morning. This will be a scavenger hunt throughout the church to show the attending students and anyone interested what is behind the doors and walls in our facility. They will be sent down stairs to see what the Piecemakers are about, John will be in the Narthex with the Backpacks for LWR, Amy will be near the Mission Board in the Hallway near the office to bring attention to our projects namely the Water Filters we plan to buy. Nancy Bennett will tell of the Prayer Shawls, Jennifer Marquardt will be in the room behind the pulpit where she stores items for Operation Oreo and Michelle Timbrook will have the Food Pantry door open. The congregation is invited to fully participate. Next meeting will be Sunday, March 12 at 9:30.

Board of Worship – Joan Eckermann reported that the board did not meet. The next meeting will be on April 18 at 8 p.m.

Old Business:

Christian Education – Sunday morning activities began on February 26, 2023. Five children in grades K-6 are attending our Sunday School classes. In addition, coffee hour is being hosted in the fellowship hall, also beginning at 9:45.

New Business:

We received a request from Esteban Reyes, Clay Township Police Department, to use our facilities for the 2023 Ottawa County Police Memorial event. They are planning a ceremony and lunch on May 18th at 11 a.m. Steve will contact Esteban Reyes for more details.

Discussion was held about bringing the offering forward during worship and sharing the peace more freely. The offering will be brought forward after the sharing of the peace beginning on March 19. The Board of Worship will discuss etiquette for sharing the peace at their next meeting.

The next council meeting will be on April 20, 2023 at 7 p.m.

A motion was made by Steve, second Mary, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.
The meeting concluded with The Lord's Prayer,

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Hammel, Church Council Secretary

