

Grace Lutheran Church Council September 11, 2025

Grace Lutheran Church Council met on Thursday, September 11, 2025 at 7 pm with the following members present: Karen Hammel, Mike Schlievert, John Heminger, Rachel Beeler, Zak Avers, Pastor Jaci, and guest Jayne Klett.

The meeting was called to order by Karen Hammel. Jayne Klett opened the meeting with prayer.

Good news and prayer concerns were shared.

A motion was made by Zak, second John, to approve the August 2025 Council Meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report - Mike Schlievert

Giving was low as we are ending the summer. Luckily, spending was low, as well. With the interest flowing in now, it minimized the loss for the month.

Pastor's Report - Reported by Pastor Jaci

- **Attended a luncheon about shared childcare spaces at Ottawa county resource center**
- **Attended a webinar- Body of Christ: neurodivergence in the church**
- **Megan Marik December 13th wedding**
- **Isaiah 117 house- Golf outing September 26th**
- **Ladies night out Next night out... September 28th Ground Round**
- **Biking for Builds Habitat for Humanity luncheon October 5th at Ory Park**
- **October 5th blessing of the animals**
- **Photo blessing/ prayer cards/ treat bags at Bethlehem**
- **Evie Heineman's funeral**

Board of Ministry Reports

Board of Congregational Life - Reported by Rachel Beeler

Reformation Potluck - October 26, 2015 Congregational Life - Reformation Potluck-

Board of Property - Zak Avers

The drywall in the narthex has been repaired.

Board of Witness and Mission - John Heminger

The board met on August 13, 2025.

1. Reviewed upcoming events:

Sept 7 – Temple Talk – Jeremy Parkins from Dress Right Dress

Sept 28 – Drive through Chicken Dinner = Profits will go to Holiday Bureau and Lutheran World Relief Shipping Costs

2. Community Thanksgiving Dinner – A request was received from the committee to ask for volunteers to take over planning and management of the event..

3. Reviewed an email from Jayne Klett, Future Planning Committee, asking for a suggestion on renaming the Witness and Mission Board. After review, we decided on "Mission Support Team".

4. Benevolence: *First Fruit balance reviewed*. 2025 Fund Balance- \$374.42, \$400 payment to Genacross. *Directed Funds balance reviewed*. 2025 Fund Balance - \$248.69, \$500 payment to CRU – Jay Herman, \$300 payment to Dress Right DressMet 9/10/25

The board also met on September 10, 2025.

Benevolence Fund balances: First Fruits - \$86.48, \$400 payment to Hope Woods (LOMO) in August. Directed Balance \$324.48

Old Business:

1. Dress Right Dress temple talk rescheduled for September 21, 2025.
2. Chicken Dinner - Nancy to check with Roots to verify delivery time.

The proceeds will be split between Holiday Bureau and Lutheran World Relief quilt and kits shipping fund.

New Business:

1. Benevolence Recipient survey - Requested Amy to prepare the survey for distribution in October.
2. The current Directed Funds distribution list has one open \$400 gift that needs a recipient.

The next meeting will be held on October 14, 2025 at 10 am.

Board of Worship - Rachel Beeler

- Altar Guild is being updated/reformatted by Jeanie Weng and Pastor Jaci.
- It is suggested that Grace (beginning in 2026) will refrain from using 'deacons' and will transition to using the term 'Worship Assistants'.
- Chancel Choir practices on Tuesday, September 9 @ 6pm - all are welcome!
- The final Youth Sunday for 2025 will be on November 30.
- Rally Day (September 7), Reformation (October 26), Christ the King (November 23); Hanging of the Greens (after church), Advent (November 30, December 7, December 14, December 21)
- Advent Soup/Bread Suppers (December 3, December 10, December 17) at 6pm; if you are helping we usually begin setting up around 5:30pm; Holden Evening Prayer will be the format for service at 7pm
- Christmas Eve Service (Wednesday, December 24) @ 8 pm (Bethlehem service will be at 6pm)
- Lessons & Carols (December 28) Joan will coordinate the lessons/hymns for that service and lead worship
- Moving Back to Sanctuary (set up on Saturday, October 4 @ 10am- many hands make light work!!); first Sunday back in Sanctuary is October 5
- Looking to shorten and condense the bulletin (currently bulletin is approx. 8 pages); we would like it to be a 1 page insert.
- Anyone interested in heading up the Board of Worship (or Worship Team) under the new Council structure? Rachel will be stepping down.
- Our next meeting is Tuesday, November 11 @ 7pm (after choir)

Board of Education - Submitted by Jayne Klett

Invitations were mailed to 15 children. Preschool will focus on Best Loved Bible Stories. Elementary children will identify Where's God's Love/Grace? as they continue through the Bible. This first year in Confirmation, our Faith Ancestors will be studied. The adventures of Flat Jesus this summer were shared at last Sunday's Flat Jesus Reunion. It was a good first start at including the community in Grace's mission. The plan is to add the Power Point of the Flat Jesus phenomenon to the website. A new Sunday morning opportunity, Gifted Hands, is beginning, led by Krista Jackson and Nancy Bennett.

Old Business:

1. Future Planning Committee - Jayne Klett

The proposed drafts of the Constitution and Bylaws were sent to the Synod on September 5, 2025 for their review and approval. This is a 4 week process. In order for the changes to be completed by the beginning of 2026, it is our plan that the Council needs to approve the changes at the October meeting and call a Special Congregational Meeting on Dec 7 for an initial vote on the new constitution. A copy of the proposal needs to be sent via USPS to each voting member (one per household is sufficient). The committee plans on hosting Q&A sessions prior to the November 9th annual meeting as well as discussing the changes at that meeting. A simple majority is required to pass the proposed constitution/bylaws at the December meeting; however, these changes must be ratified at the January meeting, without change, by a 2/3 majority.

*Mike made a motion, Zak second, that we change the Congregational meeting from November to December. This will alleviate having a meeting in both November and December. Motion carried.

2. The roster needs to be updated - Rachel made a motion, second Mike, to stay with the voting guidelines as we update the roster. Voting guidelines indicate that a member must give and/or commune within the calendar year. Motion carried.

3. Audit Committee - The Audit Committee consisting of Jen Haar and Randy Jacobs have found our books for 2024 to be in order. Thank you for volunteering to do this!

3. Biking For Builds- Grace will be hosting a lunch for participants in the Habitat for Humanity Biking for Builds. Please consider making a financial donation for the meal and/or assist in serving the lunch. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the fellowship hall. **Registration:** 1:00–2:00 PM, **Ride Start:** 2:00 PM (riders leave in waves for safety), **Return to Park:** Riders will trickle back in between about 2:30–4:00 PM.

New Business:

1. Bible Collection from Mission Cry - John requested that this be advertised on our facebook page.
2. The laptop that Deb and Linda use to chart offering takes between 15-20 minutes to start. The hard drive is failing and will be \$248 to repair it. John will look into the cost of purchasing a new laptop instead of repairing the old one.

A motion was made by Rachel, second Zak, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

The next Church Council meeting will be held on Thursday, October 9th at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Hammel
Church Council Secretary

