

# Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting

## August 18, 2022

Grace Lutheran Church council met on Thursday August 18, 2022 at 7 p.m. Members present were: Karen Hammel, Mary Schlievert, Deb Boos, Gary Anderson, Joan Eckermann, Steve Blausey, Pastor Jaci, and guest, Joyce Bruntz.

President Gary Anderson called the meeting to order. Pastor Jaci offered opening prayer. Good news was shared.

Pastor Jaci is celebrating the ten-year anniversary of her ordination today.

Mike and Mary Schlievert moved into their new home.

Nathan and Riley Gerwin were married here last weekend!

The secretary's minutes from the June 9, 2022 meeting were approved.

The financial reports for June and July were approved.

### **Pastor's Report – Reported by Pastor Jaci**

A new member class was held, and we welcomed Bobbi Bean and Rachel Haar to our congregation on August 7<sup>th</sup>.

The marriage of Nathan Gerwin and Riley Patterson was officiated on August 13.

Blessing of the backpacks will be held on August 21.

Ladies Night Out (Fellowship) will be held on Sunday, September 11 with the ladies of Bethlehem Lutheran. This monthly fellowship time will give ladies the opportunity to have fun and fellowship. More details will follow.

### **Congregational Life – Reported by Mary Schlievert**

The board met on August 26, 2022

Old Business:

- Muffins for Moms on Mother's Day were well received. Linda made a gluten-free batch.
- Donuts for Dads on Father's Day were well-received, with leftovers frozen and offered the following week. Linda provided a gluten-free option.
- No Pentecost Parking Lot Picnic June 5th- lack of manpower and Woodmore graduation. Will try to plan something for July.
- Amy Simkus has completed photographing church members for the directory. We will likely offer a make-up date. We will be asking for candids from church members.
- New member reception on August 7th for Bobbie Bean and Rachael Haar. Punch and cookies were served.
- Joyce has updated the roster with new addresses and other information; Mary made corrections and re-submitted. Discussion ensued over active vs. inactive members and how to make the roster more accurately represent our membership.
- Rally Day, Sept. 11th, will feature an Ice Cream Social along with the God's Work, Our Hands event.

New Business:

- The board will investigate a Food Truck Sunday summer of 2023.
- Mary will start compiling the photo directory
- Reformation Potluck on Sunday, Oct. 30th.

To Do/In progress:

- Photo Directory
- Get candid photos for photo directory
- Rally Day Ice Cream Social- get supplies

Next Meeting:

- Tuesday, October 11th, 6 pm (before choir)

### **Board of Property – Reported by Steve Blausey**

The Board of Property met on August 7<sup>th</sup>. Discussion about our water status still tops the list and our latest test stated our water is fine. We are still waiting for a quote back from CWS as we are entertaining an idea to let them start collecting our samples for testing. It was also mentioned that the Ottawa County Seniors were informed of our good test and we have invited them back to the fellowship hall. We also discussed continuing with the exterior faucet rebuilding. We have rebuilt one and have 2 to go.

In other items, a letter from one of our congregational members was read, expressing this individual's thoughts on the future of our parsonage. This board will address the future of the parsonage in a special meeting dedicated to discussing different options related to it, and will bring our findings to council.

New Business - The board has asked our current lawn service provider to start eradicating the weeds on the property as they have "taken over". They have one application completed and we will see how that performs. We also discussed updating the landscaping around the church next spring which will involve removal of mulch and placing stone. We believe this will be beneficial in the long run.

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, September 3, 2022.

### **Board of Witness and Mission – Reported by Nancy Pries**

The board met on Tuesday, August 16.

Current projects are:

Rally Day, September 11 - Personal Care Kits- One hundred twelve personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief will be assembled.

Chicken BBQ, September 25 (carry-out only)- The proceeds will help support The Ottawa County Family Advocacy Organization.

The money generated from the Advent soup suppers and the extra envelope in the offering boxes will be put towards "A clinic visit for a child," a project from ELCA.

A booth at the Elmore Explorer Day Fall Festival on September 4th was discussed. People will be needed to man the booth.

The next meeting will be held on September 13.

### **Board of Worship – Reported by Joan Eckermann**

The board met on Tuesday, August 9 at 7:00 p.m. Five members attended in person, two attended via Zoom, and one was absent. Thanks again to Rachel Beeler for providing the Zoom connection. We began the meeting with prayer.

#### Old Business

We reviewed worship during the summer months. Everything has gone well. There are plenty of communion kits in stock.

#### New Business

We discussed fall worship and the Advent and Christmas seasons. Worship will return to the sanctuary on September 11, and the choir will resume singing that day as well. Bobbie will be out of town that day, and Audrey Milbrodt will be our substitute organist. We discussed ideas for something special during worship on October 30 for Reformation Sunday, and Pastor Jaci and members of the

board will continue planning this. The annual congregational meeting will be held on November 6 following worship. The hanging of the greens for Advent will take place after worship on November 20, which is Christ the King Sunday. Our congregation will no longer be participating in a Thanksgiving Eve service.

The first Sunday of Advent is November 27. Wednesday soup suppers and worship will be held on November 30, December 7, 14 and 21, and we'll again use the Holden Evening Prayer liturgy. Christmas Eve worship will begin at 8:00 p.m. There was discussion on whether or not to hold worship on Christmas Day since it's a Sunday this year. Joan offered to conduct a Lessons and Carols service and provide piano accompaniment for the hymns. There will be no communion that day. New Year's Day is a Sunday as well, and we'll discuss worship plans for that at our next meeting. The Christmas decorations will probably be taken down on Saturday, January 7.

#### Other Items

We'll continue to use the communion kits and follow the current communion distribution format.

Bobbie has begun to report to CCLI (Christian Copyright Licensing International) whenever we reprint a hymn in our bulletin or online worship power point. This is a requirement of our CCLI license.

Our next meeting is scheduled on Tuesday, November 1 at 8:00 p.m. following the choir rehearsal.

**Old Business:** Gary is continuing to research the history of our church congregation.

**New Business:** Two Villages is requesting financial assistance to continue their program. Two Villages is an organization that brings prevention experts to our community in response to the loss of young lives to risky behaviors. Mary made a motion, Joan second, to make a donation of \$500 to Two Villages.

The next council meeting will be held on September 15, 2022 at 7 p.m.

A motion was made by Steve and second by Mary to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Hammel  
Church Council Secretary