

Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting March 21, 2024

Grace Lutheran Church Council met on March 21, 2024 with the following members present; Mary Schlievert, Mike Schlievert, Gordon Hille, Steve Blausey, John Heminger, Joan Eckermann and Pastor Jaci. Mary opened the meeting and Pastor Jaci led us in prayer.

Secretary's Report - A motion was made by Steve and seconded by Gordon to approve the Secretary's Report from the Council meeting on February 15, 2024. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report - Reported by Mike Schlievert
Income has been down since February, but we'll probably end March in a strong position. Mike is working on transferring funds to the ELCA Mission Investment Fund.

Pastor's Report - Reported by Pastor Jaci

- Logan Haar was baptized on February 25.
- Planning for the end of Lent and Holy Week is underway, and Easter is coming up quickly.
- Midweek dinner church attendance averaged 17 people according to Joan.
- A Ladies Night Out is planned for April 21 at 5:30 p.m. at Rayz Café in Genoa.
- Pastor Jake's contract at Bethlehem Lutheran is coming to an end, and Clyde Bame will be leading worship most often when Pastor Jaci isn't there. She will have a conversation with the synod about allowing Clyde to preside at communion if necessary since there's no retired clergy at Bethlehem like we have at Grace.
- The celebration of life service for Ruth Ann Anderson will take place on April 20 at 11:00 a.m.
- Pastor Jaci suggested that our prayer list be listed in the bulletin for a month, then begin fresh at the beginning of the next month. Members are asked to add people to the list again weekly as needed. This will begin in April.

Board Reports:

Congregational Life – Reported by Mary Schlievert

There was no report since the board hasn't met since the last Council meeting. This board still needs a chair person. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 16 at 7:00 p.m.

Board of Education - Reported by Gordon Hille

The Board of Education hosted an Appreciation Brunch for all who have assisted in the reboot of Sunday School. There were 14 in attendance who commented on the children's openness to learning and being active with each other and in worship. A suggestion to provide a teacher training workshop to aid willing but hesitant adults was expanded by Pastor who offered to invite Synod leaders to provide guidance.

- The adult class continues its study on Luther.

- The confirmation students are studying the various people involved in the Holy Week events.
- Teachers for the K-6 class in March are Jean and Dave Wietelmann.
- The children netted \$135 from the Left Behind Sale last Sunday. The jewelry will also be available next Sunday.
- There is one HS senior this year - Kassie Nissen, who will report to US Army basic training on July 15th.

Board of Property - Reported by Steve Blausey

The Board of Property met on March 3 with 5 members attending. Devotions were read along with the February report to council.

Old Business: Zak stated that he is making headway with the elevator phone issue. Steve said that he has a meeting scheduled with Von Rider to get moving on the bell microphone.

Miscellaneous: There was some discussion about our new custodian and it was agreed that he is working out well. Steve also mentioned that the new Parsonage Committee met once and will meet again on March 19th. Steve also shared a letter that was sent to our previous renter about the amount still owed to the church.

New Business: There was some discussion about changing a few more lights over to LED. We also asked Steve Simkus to check on the schedule of the new RTU just so we have a heads up. The Board also did a preliminary review of a new landscape plan provided by Bench's Greenhouse. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Board of Witness and Mission - Reported by John Heminger

- The board met on March 13, 2024.
- There was a temple talk on Mission Cry given by James Vernot before worship on March 10.
- Reviewed current First Fruit, Directed Funds and Lenten offering totals.
- Discussed suggestions for future temple talks.

The next meeting will be on April 10, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

Board of Worship - Reported by Joan Eckermann

The board did not meet this month. The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Old Business:

- We still have vacant council positions: Vice President and Chair of Congregational Life. A motion was made by Mike and seconded by Steve to appoint Linda Jacobs and Deb Boos as Financial Co-Secretaries. Motion carried.
- The Grace Constitution was discussed.
- The Council Goals were discussed:
 - A. Financial Solvency
 - B. Congregational and Council Structure
 - C. Evangelism/Expanding membership
- The Audit Committee's report was received and shared with the Council.

- Parsonage Task Force Report – Steve reported that the task force has met twice so far. Very few comments and feedback were received from the congregation. The task force members each have specific tasks assigned towards putting together a presentation.

New Business:

- Mary and Mike brought up the idea of hosting a Small Church Symposium. The purpose is for smaller congregations in the Northwestern Ohio Synod to meet and share ideas about church council structure and leadership. Mike will bring up the idea to the synod and also contact congregations to see if there's interest in this.
- Pastor Jaci's three-year contract should be reviewed this year. Mary will begin reviewing the procedure and moving forward on this.
- Gordon brought up that Clyde Bame wasn't listed in the bulletin last Sunday as worship leader. This was an oversight and will be corrected.
- Gordon also brought up the issue of security during worship and there was a short discussion. We won't be implementing security procedures.
- Steve reported that the Jazzercise franchise has asked if they can hold a yoga class in addition to the regular Jazzercise sessions. Council members are fine with this. Steve will tell the instructor and discuss the details with her.

Good News:

Karen Hammel shared in an email that the postcards sent from Grace have arrived in the mail and they look great. Also, there has been good publicity for the upcoming concert by The Avenue. The Grace dartball team won the Sandusky/Ottawa County league championship – congratulations!

Announcements:

*Holy Week Services

*AVENUE concert on April 7 at 4 PM.

*The next council meeting will be on Thursday, April 11 at 7 PM

*Ruth Ann Anderson's memorial service will be on April 20th.

A motion to adjourn was made by Steve and seconded by Gordon. Motion carried. The meeting concluded with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Eckermann, substitute Secretary