

Grace Lutheran Council April Meeting Minutes

April 25, 2019

Council in attendance: Keri Kelley, Laurie Schmidt, Don Narloch, Christi Lobermeier, Steve Garrison, Kathy Metzenbauer, Grant Peterson, Paul Kurth

Missing: Abigail Norman, Jacqueline Wick, Mark Gaedtke, Kayci Stevenson

Others in attendance: Pastor Mark Ziemer, Pastor Susan Christian, Wendy Black, Shirley Derleth

Meeting called to order at 6:11 pm.

Devotions were led by Kathy.

Where have we seen God at work?

- Power of Holy Week services, powerful to see all four pastors doing service together at Maundy Thursday and seeing them in the role of servanthip as they stripped the altar with the “new” youth (5th graders just having gone through First Communion and Seder Supper), the Easter Vigil and the great involvement of all the children and youth in that service, the Easter Sunday services and the great attendance, being able to have summer worship services at the Tilted Loon

Approve Agenda

- Laurie moved to adjust new business items #25-27 to old business, remove old business item #19, and move #13 to future agenda items. Don seconded. Motion carried.
- Grant moved to approve the amended agenda. Christi seconded. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

- Paul moved to approve the consent agenda. Christi seconded. Motion carried.
- Consent agenda consisted of the following and is available to review in binder in gathering space.
 - Church Council minutes (March 2019)
 - Endowment Report (March 2019)
 - Strategic Planning Group Report (March 2019)
 - Correspondence (Jim Wessel family)

Treasurer's Report

- Shirley highlighted the following from her report.
 - The line item for Pastor Nancy is below the percentage expected in general for this time of year. Both pastors are aware of this and she is gone (in the Dakota's) from now until summer. So that should help bring her budget line item more in line.
 - Winter weather had affected offerings, but better weather and Holy Week/Easter services should bring a positive affect. Overall, at this time there is nothing to be greatly concerned about.
 - Keri moved to accept treasurer's report as presented. Grant seconded. Motion carried.

Staff reports

- Pastor Mark highlighted the following from his report. (Full report in “Grace Notes” binder found in gathering space. Please refer to this document for more details on any of the items listed below.)
 - 2020 visit from South Africa
 - Tomahawk ministries
 - Summer Outdoor worship and summer Bible Study
 - Relationship with St. Mary's
 - Recap of worship services in Lent, Holy Week, and Easter
 - Waypost Week and Wilderness Trip
 - Correspondence from Lekubu

- Greater Galilee weekend
- Northern Lights Via De Cristo
- Re-Imagining Church & Stewardship for All Seasons
- Special Offerings
- Online Vendors that are recommended by the ELCA
- Pastor Susan shared the following from her report.
 - Her time has been busy. Has done about 125-130 visits (hospital, phone, nursing homes).
 - Attends TAIV, TWC, and Tomahawk Clergy meetings.
 - Working with the upcoming Tomahawk Thrift Store, which will be patterned after St. Mathias with 75% of profits going to Tomahawk ministries (i.e. TWC, Kinship).
 - Has covered some worship services for Pastor Mark. Also helped with Holy Week services.
 - Does Thursday nursing home communion visits.
- Wendy shared the following from her report.
 - Summer Outdoor Worship will be held at the Tilted Loon. However, we will not have storage space out there. Outdoor worship has been brainstorming how to accommodate that storage need without compromising the musical equipment. They wanted Council to be aware that Outdoor Worship may need assistance with this unexpected cost.
- Kathy moved to approve staff reports as presented. Christi seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business

1. **Update on planning for 2019 & 2020 congregational retreat** (Pastor Mark, Laurie)
 - Reviewed main points of discussion/dwelling in the Word at the retreat. Thanks to Margie and the youth for providing the delicious food. Discussed our next steps as they relate to Grace's Mission statement: Praising God. Serving others. Building friendships. What is our "why"? How do we help ministries to stay focused around our mission statement so ministries don't become overwhelming?
2. **Crossways Campaign update on plans (Wendy)**
 - Still need someone to take the training with Crossways to head this campaign up. Pastor Mark and Wendy will make contacts to seek this person or people out.
 - While we did discuss when the kick-off for this campaign might be, the above group really needs to be in place and trained before that can happen.
3. **Monthly recap/report from Pastor Susan Christian (per items 4.B. & 5.B.2 on her contract)**
 - See Pastor Susan's report under staff reports.
4. **2018 Smart Goals -Progress of lifting up how we serve others (Wendy)**
 - Karen has all the completed videos and will use them for worship services when there is no other temple talk scheduled.
5. **Grace House update on condition/repairs (Al as information comes in)**
 - Weather permitting, work on replacing the roof on the high roof area will begin next week.
6. **Update on insurance recommendations (Steve and church staff) No update.**
9. **Security System Fire Installation progress (Steve)**
 - One more item will be added. A water sensor to tie the sump pump into the system.
 - \$273 (to come out of building/grounds budget) will be used to purchase/install the sensor. There will be no additional charges for monitoring the sensor within the system.
10. **Update on Reiff Hall Renovation (Steve)**
 - This project will start on April 28th. Projected completion is May 16th. The kitchenette in Reiff Hall will also be updated as part of this project.
11. **SMART goals for 2019 with input from "Blessed to Be a Blessing" results (all)**
 - As our focus for this year is "building friendships", the idea of "servant groups" idea has been discussed as that idea's basis is about building more relationships within our church family. Laurie shared the idea with strategic planning as it would involve many of the ministries. They were receptive, but wanted to know more about it.

- After further discussion, it was decided that Christi and Laurie should further research how other churches that use “servant groups” have begun and used them.
12. **Policy on background checks for adults who volunteer to work with children/youth** (Grant)
- Discussion around policy and color coded additions. Additions include procedural changes and education for volunteers concerning abuse reporting. There were also changes regarding how often the checks are updated and the authorization to do so. Kathy will look into abuse training and a designed response plan required with additions/changes.
 - After discussion of the changes/updates to the policy, Kathy moved to accept the policy on background checks for adults who volunteer to work with children/youth as updated. Christi seconded. Motion carried.
13. **Council binder digital options** (Keri) No update.
14. **Follow-up on council liaisons and delegate vacancies** (Don)
- No additional delegates were secured for the Gustavus annual meeting. No additional delegates have yet been secured for the Homme Homes Annual meeting.
 - We will check with Kayci to see if the nominating committee has secured any more members.
15. **Plans for Lent services with St. Mary’s** (Pastor Mark, Keri)
- See Pastor Mark’s report for a review of this year’s Lent services with St. Mary’s.
 - Suggestions from those who attended these services included each church praying for the other at their respective regular church services and hosting some events together. After discussion, Council thought praying for each other was a good start. A suggestion was also made to invite St. Mary’s to participate in our Summer Bible Study.
16. **Update on church use policy** (Pastor Mark) No update.
17. **Covenants and Job Description Update** (Mark, Pastor Mark) No update.
18. **Threshold for signatures on checks** (Shirley)
- Steve had talked with TCB. They shared that the threshold was a Council made limit as the bank no longer sets limits on that. Thus 2 signatures are no longer needed for payroll checks (out of our regular account) over the previous maximum limit of \$2500.
 - After discussion, Don moved to give the treasurer authority to sign payroll checks above the \$2500 maximum. Paul seconded. Motion carried.
19. **Church app** (Pastor Mark)
- ELCA is working with VANCO, but it appears that is only for online-giving. We would still like to look at something that can send out announcements as well. Keri will research the possibilities.
20. **Easter breakfast plans** (Laurie)
- This went well and thanks to council members for helping out the Wilderness group. Your help that morning was greatly appreciated. We did note that there was some down time for council members for the shift that was during the 9:00 service so next year we would tell council members signing up for the 2nd shift of the breakfast that they could come at the end of the 9:00 service.

New Business

21. **SAS payment to Synod** (Steve)
- Payment for the consultant had previously been approved by Council.
 - This one-time payment of \$1900 has now been paid out the stewardship line item in the budget.
22. **Kitchen Coordinator Position** (Steve)
- Two parties are interested in this position. Steve and Pastor Mark will continue with the process of interviewing.

Public Comment - none.

Future agenda items and dates

- Revisit SCRIP possibilities (June 2019)
- Blessed to be a Blessing planning (July 2019)
- Finance Committee - 2020 budget planning (September 2019)

- Revisit TCB MM account interest options (August 2019)

Future meetings, events, and dates to remember

- Next Council meeting will be on May 9th at 6:00 pm.

Keri moved to adjourn the meeting. Kathy seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes by Laurie Schmidt