

## Community of Grace Lutheran Church Council Minutes

March 17, 2022

### Call to Order and Roll Call

Present: Ken Colberg, Mike Duesenberg, Dennis Engman, Wendy Fitzsimmons, Andy Hennig, Mike Mathisen, Dan McMahon, Mark Schuneman, Michelle Sherman, Darrin Vick, Angie Way.

Excused: Mike Hamernick

Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm

Devotions led by Michelle Sherman. Andy Hennig volunteered for April devotions.

### Approval of minutes –

- The minutes from the February Council meeting were approved.
- The minutes from the 1/30/22 council meeting conducted after the Annual Meeting were approved.

### Pastor Darrin's Report

- Staff updates – Christy Torgusson will be leaving her position as Executive Assistant and her last day will be 3/29/22. We will be looking for people to fill in temporarily while a replacement position is being filled.
- Doug Nelson will be leaving his position as organist, which he has held for the last 15 years to explore new opportunities. His last day will be Easter Sunday, 4/17/22. The job position will be reviewed to determine if it can be combined with other musical roles. We will be looking for congregational members to help fill in. The plan is to not announce this until April 3<sup>rd</sup>. We will have cards out for people to sign at the soup supper on Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Mike Mathisen has been filling in for the open financial position and will be contracted to continue to help with the financials for \$1,500 per month, effective January 2022. This is not a staff position but a consulting arrangement. The responsibilities are normally combined in a treasurer position. Separation of duties is in place with Keith Nelson for income and Sue Quinn for accounts payable.
- Motion made to contract Mike Mathisen for \$1,500 per month on an interim basis including back pay for January and February. Motion approved. Mike Mathisen abstained.

### Pastor Angie's Report

- Review of attendance numbers during lent thus far:
  - Ash Wednesday: 290 people among the 3 services
  - Sunday March 6: 318 people
  - Wednesday March 9: 4:30 - 72 people, 6:30 - 50 people, total 122 people
  - Walk through the Bible experience in the Sanctuary
  - Sunday March 13: 283 People (with livestream # 353)
  - Wednesday March 16: 4:30 - 74 people, 6:30 - 41 people, total 115 people

- Wednesday night soup suppers are going strong. A member of the congregation has offered to help cover the cost.
- Catalyst: about 15 people have been attending. Two sessions have been completed out of five.
- Prayer: Strategic operations meeting held with team regarding Swot analysis.
- Prayer retreat: Christos Center March 26
- Funerals: Gene Eastlund, Marilyn Eckerson
- First Communion classes: scheduled for Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Holy week plans:
  - Palm Sunday (4/10/22): the pickup choir will be singing
  - Maundy Thursday (4/14/22): Seder meal in the Fellowship Hall with Irina Orf will occur between services at 4:30 pm and 7:00 pm.
  - Good Friday (4/15/22) services at 5:30 pm and 7:00 pm
  - Easter Sunday (4/17/22) services at 7:30 am, 9:00 am, and 10:30 am in the Sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall.
- Magnuson Gala: April 23<sup>rd</sup>
- St Katherine Ukrainian Orthodox church is organizing a supply drive to aid the people impacted by the war in Ukraine. A card will be handed out with information on Sunday, 3/20. Irina Orf can also be contacted for donations to Ukraine.

#### **Children's Ministry** – presented by Wendy Fitzsimmons

- HisKids attendance is climbing, averaging around 40, including new families from Magnusson school connections.
- Parents of Grace – 12 parents attended on Sunday, 3/13. Parents have been sharing, connecting, and engaging in dialogue about their faith.
- Egg Hunt (4/9/22) – a few volunteers are still needed, see website to fill in open slots. The live Easter story will be set up in various rooms for the children to move between with their families. Games will also be available.
- VBS registrations are half full. Limit is 120 children because it is more meaningful in smaller groups and volunteer needs are difficult to fill at higher numbers.
- Blessing on decision for Britta's daughter to go to Magnusson next year.

#### **Students** – Presented by Dan McMahon

- Spring break activity was held at Sky Zone trampoline and was attended by over 20 students
- Refuge Rise and Shine has started on Sunday mornings in between services.
- New message series called "Belief" is focused on the Apostle's creed.
- Summer mission trip has been cancelled due to low sign-ups. Another trip will be planned in 2023, potentially teaming up with another church. Other events will be planned for the summer 2022. Refuge Summer takeover will include volunteering at VBS in the morning and a fun activity in the afternoon

#### **Service and Missions** – presented by Mike Duesenberg

- Core team on 3/21 is scheduled at 6:30 pm at the church.

- Stamp out hunger, tentatively for 5/14 to be hosted here using our drive-through for food drop-offs.
- Perry has offered to speak to the congregation or prepare a video to provide an update on the White Bear Lake Area Food Shelf.
- Garage sale – June 18<sup>th</sup> – detailed planning is in progress.
- Reviewed missions financial report

**Seniors** – presented by Ken Colberg

- ROMEO – met on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at Denny's
- JULIET – met on March 7<sup>th</sup> at the Olive Garden
- Lenten soup suppers are going well. Schedule: March 9<sup>th</sup>, March 16<sup>th</sup>, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, March 30<sup>th</sup>, and April 6<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 6:15 PM
- Circle leaders met with Pastor Angie on 3/17
- Medical mission – bandage rolling – 3/8 and 3/23
- Quilters meet on Mondays and Thursdays
- Funerals hosted for Gene Eastlund on 3/10/22 and Marilyn Eckerson on 3/16/22.

**Worship** – presented by Andy Hennig

- Brianna McNear's internship will be ending this spring, but she intends to make Community of Grace her church home.
- Noelle Norman will be a summer worship intern.
- Easter services will be linked via live stream from both the Fellowship Hall and the Sanctuary.
- Upcoming expenditure: Fellowship Hall projectors are 12-13 years old and will need replacement. Target date is early 2023

**Adults/Welcome** – presented by Dennis Engman

- Additional volunteers needed for welcome team.
- Adults – keeping growth groups engaged has been challenging during the pandemic.
- Discussed importance of inviting people to come back and welcoming people back.

**Treasurer's Report** – presented by Mike Mathisen

- Reviewed financials for the general operating fund, missions' budget, and Canopy of Grace 2.0
- YTD budget number changed due to 12 month flat-line budget
- Temp services may be used by staff within their budgets
- Magnusson Gala – church usually sponsors a table. The table is \$450 for 8 people. Motion made to authorize \$450 for sponsoring a table on April 23. Motion approved.
- Motion made to pass a corporate resolution: "BE IT RESOLVED that Treasurer Michael Mathisen is hereby authorized to make additions to, deletions from, and any changes needed to our current and future banking / financial relationships on behalf of Community of Grace Lutheran Church. This includes all accounts at Bremmer Bank, US Bank, and any other financial institution that we may now or in the future do business with." Motion passed.

**Facilities** – presented by Mike Mathisen

- Chairs approved at previous meeting have been ordered
- Fellowship hall chairs – a sample is on the way to us because the previous chair has been discontinued. The fabric is identical but there is a minor difference in the frame.
- Still looking into options for the tables approved at the last meeting.
- New copiers are in place
- Upcoming project will be needed to replace the locks on the doors to the offices as they are not functioning properly.

**Secretary** – No report

**Vice President** – presented by Mark Schuneman on behalf of Mike Hamernick

- May 19<sup>th</sup> council meeting will be held at 5:30 pm at Mike Mathisen's backyard along with staff. Mike Hamernick is working with Britta, Melinda, and Hannah to help the council and staff become more acquainted with each other. Recommendation was made to submit May council reports in advance for review.

**President – Mark Schuneman**

- Staff has been stretched so the council was asked to adopt staff members to show appreciation for them and pray for them. Ideas include sending thank you notes, gift cards, seeking them out at church. Mark will send out an online signup.
- October – staff appreciation event could be planned.
- Mark will send out offering schedule for Holy week.
- Volunteer appreciation will be the first Sunday in May.

**Other New Business - None**

Meeting adjourned at 9:16 pm.

The next council meeting is scheduled for April 21, 2022.

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Sherman