

## Community of Grace Lutheran Church Council Minutes

April 21, 2022

### Call to Order and Roll Call

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

Excused:

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm

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

- Reviewed financials for the general operating fund, missions' budget, and Canopy of Grace 2.0
- Motion made to move \$4,000 from general fund to missions fund to bring missions to a net zero for the first quarter. Motion approved
- Canopy of Grace 2.0 pledges have remained constant. We will ask the congregation in June for additional pledges with a goal of reaching \$275,000.
- The endowment fund balances were shared and explained. The corpus balance is not allowed to be used, and the remaining balance can only be used towards specific facility expenses. Starting in May, a section related to the endowment fund will be added to the council financial report.
- The balance sheet as of 12/31/2021 was shared and highlights were discussed.

### Facilities – presented by Mike Mathisen

- Pinnacle provided an update that the roof is on track for May.

### Approval of minutes –

- The minutes from the March Council meeting were approved.

### Pastor Darrin's Report

- Celebration items
  - 2021 comparison to 2022 Holy week attendance numbers showed major increase in attendance. In total across all services during Holy week, there were 1,267 in attendance 2021 which increased to 1,876 in 2022, for a 33% increase.

Service	2021 Attendance	2022 Attendance
Palm Sunday	329	471
Maundy Thursday	149	254
Good Friday	105	281
Easter Sunday	684	870
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,267</b>	<b>1,876</b>

- Easter egg hunt – over 1,000 attendees. The event was extremely well done.
- Over 100 people in attendance at the Seder meal. Irina Orf did a marvelous job leading the presentation and so many volunteers helped to make it a very memorable evening.

- Good Friday services were very well attended. Our students did a wonderful job with the Contemporary service, and it was great to have both the contemporary and traditional services share so much content.
- Nearly 800 people in attendance at our six Easter services. Many familiar faces along with many returning people we hadn't seen during the pandemic the last two years.
- Raising Hope campaign is approximately at \$20,000. Staff is working on creative ways to raise the remaining \$5,000 by Mission of Hope Sunday on May 22, 2022.
- How do we measure success going forward?
  - It's time to be done with statistical comparison of church life prior to pandemic (2020) because the world has changed.
  - Every ministry should ask these questions: 1. How will we equip/disciple the people that we have for today's church to focus on Jesus and the mission of the church? 2. What resources do we have and what do we need to reallocate?

### **Pastor Angie's Report**

- Volunteer appreciation Sunday will be on May 1, 2022. Many volunteers to recognize from Worship, Soup Suppers, Catalyst, and more.
- Women's circles for next year will be studying the names of God.
- Discussion in progress with Chris LePoutre regarding practices for prayer life in Advent.
- A lot of interest has been expressed in the open organist position through word of mouth.
- Brianna McNear is contracted to ensure that the traditional service will have a pianist or organist through the summer while the organist position is open. Brianna will be covering two Sundays per month and finding others to fill in the remaining Sundays.

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

- Egg Hunt had close to 1,000 people with many stories of positive impact. Volunteers were able to walk through the stations privately before the event. Feedback for next year is welcome. Only 12 eggs were left out of over 4,000.
- VBS – 101 of 120 spots filled. Volunteers are still needed.
- First Communion class of 15 students was completed. Thirteen of the students were able to attend the Seder meal on Maundy Thursday.
- HisKids – only four Sunday's left for this school year. Summer Sunday morning children's messages are being planned, with congregation participation encouraged.

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

- Three weeks left of Refuge. Final Message Series: Upside Down Kingdom
  - How we think about, interact with, and experience authority
  - Help students see that Jesus, the ultimate example of authority, turned our idea of power upside down
  - Knowing how Jesus used authority affects how we respond to authority and how we use the authority that we have to make a difference
- Youth Worship Night – May 1<sup>st</sup> (7-12<sup>th</sup> grade)
  - Night of multi-church youth worship with several groups from around the area
  - At Redeemer in Fridley

- Planning a parent appreciation night – May 4<sup>th</sup>
- The Late Nighter – May 20<sup>th</sup> (7-10<sup>th</sup> grade & friends; older students can volunteer)
- Summer Activities
  - Refuge Summer Takeover (possibly under a new name?)
  - In place of the high school mission trip: High school service/mission week
    - Volunteer service with various local organizations plus fun activities including camping trip at William O'Brien State Park

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

- Next Core Team Meeting will be held at Church Monday June 27 at 6:30 pm.
- Stamp out hunger set for May 14 at Church. Spoke to Perry Peterson and he is confident we can count on that day as well as the post office cooperating. The event will be from 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm at church. We should plan to have our volunteers there at 2:30 pm for set up. We will use the drive through to have the drivers drop off food, and we will organize in the commons.
- Garage Sale planning under way. Will be June 18. Row leaders meeting Sunday May 1 at church in the large choir room. Zoom available if not able to attend in person.
- Mission of Hope Sunday May 22. Staff and others to have dinner with Otis on Saturday night the 21st. Hannah coordinating.
- MN Teen Challenge Sunday breakfast being organized by Kathy. Hannah will order Donatelli's for a take home lunch. More details to follow.
- Family Service center changes in how we fund monthly. A \$250 check is now made out to Catholic Charities for the "Family Service Center". This change started this month.
- Balance for general service and missions as of 3/31/2022 is **(\$3,160.75)**. Monthly contributions for General Service and Missions in March were \$2,542.00. Year to date contributions through March are \$8,789.25.

**Seniors** – presented by Ken Colberg

- ROMEO – met on April 1 at Denny's
- JULIET – met on April 4<sup>th</sup> at the Red Lobster
- Old Guys Bible study meets on Monday's
- Lenten soup suppers were a big success
- Ladies' circles meet throughout the month
- Medical mission – bandage rolling – 4/12 and 4/26
- Quilters meet on Mondays and Thursdays

**Worship** – presented by Andy Hennig

- Devotions
- Staff appreciation is extremely important

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

- Full welcome team was engaged on Easter Sunday

**Secretary** – presented by Michelle Sherman

- Michelle will be out of the country for the June 16<sup>th</sup> council meeting. A backup will need to be identified for taking minutes for the June meeting.

**Vice President** – presented by Mike Hamernick

- Mike called the annual audit Committee of Steve Scidmore, Rex Kiekhoefer, and Sam Hunter in accordance with chapter 11.03 of the constitution to audit the Congregation's financial policies and other appropriate finance practices to ensure they are being followed. This will be taking place, Sunday April 24<sup>th</sup> during the 10:30 service in the Fireside room.

**President – Mark Schuneman**

- May 19<sup>th</sup> council meeting will be held at 5:30 pm at Mike Mathisen's backyard along with the staff.
- There will not be a council meeting in July.

**Other New Business - None**

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Sherman