

Grace Lutheran Church
Council Minutes
February 20, 2024

Members present: Penny Carr, Karleen Cotton, Pastor Kelsey Fauser, Courtney Graham, Lorinda Laabs, Ginny Ruths, Randy White, Jan Whittet, Karin Crain via Zoom

Meeting called to order at 1:33 pm.

Jan did devotions on Ash Wednesday, Matthew 6, and Valentine's Day about love and sacrifice, how temporary our lives are but God will be with us forever.

Minutes: Notes from the January 16 Council meeting approved with corrections to Courtney's name and Pastor Kelsey's PTO. Randy made the motion to approve, Jan seconded. Motion passed.

Financials: Financials are all in the black, haven't seen that in a long time.

One minor change to Karleen's report – we had asked congregation for \$45,000 (not \$43,000) to replace the roof, so we did not go over the estimated amount. We will not get a reduction on insurance, but insurer will note next year that we have a new roof. Need to get new bids for church insurance this year. Karleen will check for better rates than Lutheran Brotherhood. Church Mutual has contacted us. Not very many companies offer church insurance any longer because of risk management. Randy made the motion to accept financials, Ginny seconded. Motion passed.

Audio equipment update: Have lost 4 microphones, no longer working after 20 or so years. Tom has been using workarounds to keeping things functional. He looked at new mics. Shure makes 3 specific piano condenser mics. Our current piano mic is basically unusable. Tom wants to replace all 4, including at least 1 gooseneck mic. Zoom camera mic requires audio input taken from input jack. Could use an audio splitter for those who need assisted listening (4 outputs), plus allow 1 for the camera. Also need more cables and windscreens. Tom recommends 1 piano mic, 1 or 2 gooseneck mics, and cables and windscreens pack. Karleen will apply for funds from the Gift Team. Ginny made a motion to approve Tom's recommendation for whatever equipment he deems necessary, Penny seconded. Motion passed.

Prayers requested for Tom and Nancy's goddaughter and family in NC, who were caught in a trailer fire.

Pastor's update: 51 PTO days yet to use, including 2 Sundays (correction to previous minutes).

Had two families join last Sunday, several more have indicated interest.

Adult confirmation first session was held last Sunday after worship, 6 people attended.

Info for Kelsey's Boards has moved to next stage toward her future with the Navy, discernment between Active or Reserves. Decision will be happening within next couple of months. Prayers for guidance for Kelsey in making decision. "Pray and let God worry." Even if she goes in Reserves, things at Grace will change; it is considered a change of call. She will investigate what vision of changes might look like.

She has put an article in the newsletter about formation of a telephone ministry to homebound to improve connection, requesting volunteers to assist her with visiting.

No date yet set for next *Autopsy* discussion, probably in March. Session to focus on questions asked during previous meetings.

Grant for washer/dryer shifting to Blessing Box. Kelsey has had trouble getting hold of the people to reapply. Suggests we just go ahead with BB and get it done using money from discretionary funds, then reapply for grant after the fact.

Jan asked questions about Sunday School for new members with kids. Need to ask parents now so we can prepare for starting up again in fall. Need to find a SS coordinator.

2024 Synod Assembly: Still need a male representative to attend. Tammi and Penny are both interested. Need to ask permission from Synod to have 2 women attend. Kelsey will email Bishop Gonia to ask.

Aesthetics Team discussion: No update yet, because the team hasn't been able to meet with another flooring company yet. They are working on setting up meetings. Randy is willing to meet with someone as well. Will hopefully have additional bids for review by next Council meeting.

Updates on previous finance discussion: Family Promise – Jean will do temple talk this Sunday. They have multiple resources to assist/train volunteers/coordinators, offer more support. Some people have expressed interest in volunteering, but not as coordinator. Need to have the coordinator position filled before June to ensure Grace can serve as host in September. May need to look into partnering with another church as a support congregation rather than hosting.

Old business: Can we use existing funds to finish painting outside trim at front doors? That did not get done during last round of painting. Addition doors also need to be repainted as a temporary fix and should match main doors.

New business: Flip gave the church a large-screen TV to be used for Power Point displays and video. It has been mounted in the fellowship hall.

Need to re-up our license, \$269 year, if we want to restart Movie Night. We can't charge admission or advertise. Have a license for streaming worship but it doesn't cover movies. Karleen and Randy will check into limitations /restrictions of license.

Did really well with making money on chili cook-off, maybe do same with Easter breakfast. Haven't decided yet on 1 or 2 services, potentially with breakfast in between. Simplify with casseroles/fruit instead of cooking pancakes/eggs. Donations from attendees to go to general fund. Can also ask for donations of food. Men don't mind giving up cooking. Lorinda will talk with Cathie about taking over. Possibly services 8 and 10:30, breakfast at 9:15?

Noisy offering on 5th Sundays? Even without young children we could still collect cash from congregation, possibly highlight individual ministries as well as GraceFull Fund. This year has 4 5th Sundays, including Easter, but probably don't want to do it then. Put notice in newsletter to tell congregation to start saving change. Start advertising week after Easter with temple talk for June 30 offering.

Automated External Device (defibrillator) from memorial funds/Gift Team? Possibly get a grant to buy, but that will include requirements for training. Kelsey will look into it. Need to update Gift Team members. Karin should be on as vice president. Karleen will give her a booklet on Sunday.

Karleen asked about renewing license for Church Windows program, she uses 4 of the modules. All historical info on church registry is in there. March 1 renewal for \$600/year, or could move to online program for \$109/month, all web based so everything would be updated and backed up automatically. She could work from home, Kelsey could also log in, though not at the same time. Having multiple

users costs another \$50/month. Other programs are available to replace Windows. Kelsey will get more information on them.

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 19, at 1:30 pm. Randy is on the schedule for devotions.

Meeting adjourned at 3:21 pm, closed with Lord's Prayer.

Minutes taken by Ginny Ruths