

Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting
November 14, 2024

Grace Lutheran Church Council met on November 14, 2024 with the following members present: Mary Schlievert, Mike Schlievert, Karen Hammel, Deb Boos, John Heminger, Joan Eckermann, Steve Blausey, and Pastor Jaci. Pastor opened the meeting with prayer.

A motion was made by Mike, second Joan to approve the minutes from the October 10, 2024 meeting. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report - Mike Schlievert

We finished with a small loss for the month, mainly because we used the quarterly interest and transferred it into the operating fund. Our giving is still low, resulting in averaging just over \$1,000 a month shortfall. We will have one more CD coming due in December to provide some more interest income.

Pastor's Report - Pastor Jaci

Scott Hetrick - Officiated graveside funeral service.

Sandy Cutchall - Officiated funeral at the funeral home.

Isaiah 117 House - Attended the fundraiser for this organization. It was well attended and successful!

Assisting with the Blue Christmas service at St. John's December 8th at 3:30.

Board Reports:

Congregational Life - Mary Schlievert

The board met on October 15, 2024. We met at Grace in the conference room. The meeting opened with prayer. We reviewed the minutes from the 8-13-24 meeting; there were no changes or corrections.

Old Business: We discussed the Parking Lot Party held Sunday, August 18th. We had multi-generational activities including corn hole, chalk, bubbles, yard games, frozen treats, a food truck, a nature scavenger hunt, a food truck (Holly's Street Eats) and a bird feeder craft. We decided to do this again next year on Blessing of the Backpacks Sunday. We need to have canopies set up and remind people to bring lawn chairs. Thanks to Nancy for providing items for the pine cone/bird feeder craft, and thanks to Joan for providing frozen treats. We will set up for the Reformation Potluck on Sunday, October 27th at 9:00 a.m. The Budget for 2024 has been recommended by the Church Council for congregational vote on November 3rd at the Fall meeting. It is a deficit

budget due to offering/giving being down. We are still in need of a board chairperson. Thank you to Linda for updating the Council and New Member photos in the hallway. *New Business:* Mary requested punch and cookies after the Christmas Pageant on December 22. We will set up at 9:30 and each member will bring 2 dozen cookies; there will be Festive Cranberry Punch with a decorative ice ring. Advent Soup Suppers will be on December 4, 11, and 18. We will set up at 5:30 with a meal at 6:00 pm. Clean-up help is appreciated. Prayer Partners will reveal themselves on Sunday, December 22. On January 12 we will have slips for new Prayer Partners, with a drawing on February 2.

On the to-do list: Checking supplies for the Reformation Brunch: red placemats, large plates, napkins, plastic ware, water bottles, and coffee/tea.

The meeting concluded with the Lord's prayer.

The next meeting will be in January with a date and time to be set by the new board chair.

Education - Submitted by Jayne Klett

Nancy Bennett is teaching the Elementary class during November. Jen Marquardt is collaborating with this class to create cards, coloring pages, and ornaments for the Thanksgiving and Christmas mailings to Operation Oreo recipients. The Noisy Offering was fun and resulted in a huge donation of \$297.20 for Operation Oreo. Jayne will meet with all ages on December 1st for a lesson on the season of Advent. Christmas cards will be made for our shut-ins. The Christmas Program is Dec. 22nd, led by Mary Schlievert.

Property - Steve Blausey

The Board of Property met on Nov. 3, 2024. Devotions were read along with the October report to Council.

Old Business: P.M. s on boilers and furnaces should be done soon according to Steve Simkus. It was stated that due to the current financial situation the church is in, we will be holding off on getting any quotes for re-paving the parking lot. Water samples are coming back ok and we thank Randy and Mark for their work staying on top of this. The repairs made to the front yard is appreciated and grass is coming up. Thank you to the Avers for their efforts here. Steve Blausey gave a Parsonage report stating that it is now on the market. He also said that a couple of last repairs over there were replacing various switches and receptacles and having the screen replaced on the patio door.

New Business: This board has been asked to install a new bulletin board in the Narthex where the tv currently hangs. There was also some discussion about the church's organ acting up. We may need to have some service work done soon. We ended the meeting saying the Lord's Prayer.

Witness and Mission - John Heminger

The board did not meet. The next meeting is scheduled for December 11.

Worship - Joan Eckermann

Met Tuesday, November 5, 2024

Christ the King Sunday is November 24. The hanging of the greens will take place after worship, and volunteers are needed to help. The first Sunday of Advent is December 1st. Wednesday midweek worship will be held on December 4, 11 and 18 with the soup supper at 6:00 p.m. and Holden Evening Prayer at 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve worship is Tuesday, December 24 at 8:00 pm. There's no worship on Christmas Day. Worship on December 29 will be a regular service with communion and Lessons & Carols in place of the sermon. The Epiphany season begins after January 6, and we'll take down the Christmas decorations on Saturday, January 11 at 10:00 a.m.

Looking ahead to the Lent and Easter seasons, Ash Wednesday is March 5 with communion and the imposition of ashes. Wednesday midweek soup suppers and worship will be held on March 12, 19, 26, April 2 and 9. Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion is April 13. Maundy Thursday is April 17 and Good Friday is April 18. Worship details for Holy Week will be discussed at the next meeting. We will also decide whether or not to hold a Prayer Vigil again on April 19. Easter Sunday is April 20.

Other Items: Rachel Beeler agreed to serve as the board chair next year. Thanks to Rachel for writing the bulletin articles about the liturgical seasons and colors. We discussed the bulletin format and will continue to evaluate this. There have been issues with the organ in recent weeks, and Joan will contact Rodgers Organ Company to arrange for a service call. The Altar Guild duties need to be updated, and Jean Weng will work with Pastor Jaci to create a new Altar Guild manual. Pastor Jaci reported that Pastor Margaret from St. John's UCC invited us to participate in a joint Thanksgiving Eve service on November 27. We'll consider this for next year with more advance notice. The UCC church also plans to hold a Blue Christmas service on December 8 at 3:30 p.m. Pastor Jaci will be involved, and we'll publicize it to our congregation. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 11 at 7:00 p.m. following choir rehearsal.

Old Business:

Pastors will meet to talk about small churches. This will lead to the small church symposium.

New Business

1. A motion was made by Mike, second Deb, to appoint Jayne Klett to lead a future plan committee. Jen Haar has expressed an interest to help with this committee. Motion carried.

2. A motion was made by Karen, Steve second to approve Deb Boos and Linda Jacobs to co-chair co-financial secretaries. Motion approved.

Good News: Our dartball team is in first place! The political ads are over!

The prayer list was updated.

Announcements:

December 8 - Blue Christmas Service at St. John UCC at 3:30

December 12 - Council Meeting

December 22 - Christmas Pageant during worship and Prayer Partner reveal

December 31 - Year end board reports due

A motion was made by Steve, second Joan to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Hammel
Church Council Secretary