

Grace Lutheran Church Council
December 12, 2024

Grace Lutheran Church Council met at the home of Mike and Mary Schlievert on December 12, 2024 at 6:30 pm. The following members were present: Mike Schlievert, Mary Schlievert, John Heminger, Joan Eckermann, Karen Hammel, Deb Boos, Steve Blausey, and Linda Jacobs. Guests included Randy Jacobs, Robin Blausey, Jayne Klett, and Jeff Boos.

The meeting was called to order by Mary and she offered an opening prayer.

A motion was made by Deb, second Mike to approve the minutes from the November 14, 2024 meeting. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report - Mike Schlievert

There has been good control of spending in most areas, however, we still have a significant shortfall on the giving side (\$4,000) resulting in a loss of almost \$1,800 for the month. This brings us to a total shortfall for the year of almost \$14,000. We will be having a CD due in December. The plan is to take the interest and roll it over to a new one. The current rates will determine the length of the new CD.

Board Reports

Congregational Life - A meeting will be held in January.

Education - Submitted by Jayne Klett

All ages are meeting together in December. Jayne led the December 1st lesson on the importance of Advent and its traditions. The kids created cards for the shut ins and took home an advent calendar. [Adelyn, Jaycie, and Jayne shopped for three teens from Elmore's Angel Tree.](#) Mary is leading the Christmas program rehearsal which is slated for December 22nd. There will be no classes on Youth Sunday, December 29th. The children will gather instead at 10:00 am to rehearse. Looking ahead, January teachers will be Peggie Avers (PreK), Jeff/Deb Boos (Elementary),

Jayne Klett (teens). A fun winter activity will be introduced in January for the entire congregation. **Grace Reads** is a winter reading program that challenges us to read books about Jesus and find hope in God's Word. Watch for details in the bulletin and the January Newsletter.

Property - Steve Blausey

The Board of Property met on Dec.1, 2024 with 7 members in attendance. Devotions were read along with the November. report to the Council.

Old Business: Steve Blausey informed the Board that the contract with Johnson Controls is now cancelled and that he told Joyce not to pay any renewal notices. Steve Simkus stated that the P.M.s are complete on all units in the church and that we have been invoiced for this work. We are still getting material around for the new bulletin board. Steve B reported that we haven't heard anything from our realtor lately on the status of the parsonage sale and that we are still in disagreement with the cleaning company on the invoice details.

Miscellaneous: Zak Avers has graciously accepted the role of Chairman for the Board of Property. This board will help him get comfortable in this new position.

New Business: The boiler is scheduled for inspection on Dec 23rd. Mark Harr or Randy Jacobs will show him around. Al Wolfe has again agreed to take care of snow plowing this winter and we thank him for that. Steve B said that he will return the snow blower to the church after storing it for the off season. We adjourned saying the Lord's Prayer.

Witness and Mission - John Heminger

December Meeting:

1 Temple Talk- December 9: Zoom talk by Jay Herman CRU from Slovenia a success.

2. Benevolence recipients and proposed amounts of donations for 2025 were reviewed and adjustments made. 3. Chicken dinner date scheduled for Sept 28th, 2025. Nancy contacted Tank's to get us on their calendar. Tentative recipient of proceeds to be Ottawa County Holiday Bureau.

Benevolence: First Fruit balance reviewed. - No payments made Final scheduled payment for 2024 to be made shortly.

Directed Funds balance reviewed. \$500 sent to Ottawa County Holiday Bureau

The current benevolence income does not support the final \$500 CRU payment in support of Jay Herman. Final payment may not be for the \$500 planned giving.

Advent Project – ELCA Good Gifts Vocational Training Current Balance - \$215

Next meeting - January 8, 2025

November Meeting:

1. Temple Talk November 17 – Pastor Mike (not Mark) Hanck – Salem Lutheran Church
2. Christmas Mailing – Christmas themed pictures of the church were not found. A sample card was found on Outreach.com website. The mailing area was reduced to the 43416-zip code. The order was placed with planned mailing on Dec. 5th.
3. Advent offerings will go to the ELCA Good Gifts Vocational Training program which teaches such trades as mechanics, carpentry and welding.
4. The project to collect \$1000 in October to support the hurricane recovery efforts in Tennessee and North Carolina was a success. \$1410 was given by members. \$400 was added from our Thrivent Choice account along with the \$700 from our Mission Response fund for a grand total of \$2510 sent to the ELCA Southeastern Synod which serves the affected areas of Tennessee and N Carolina..
5. Survey results -15 people responded, and their input mirrored the 2023 results regarding the programs and agencies we support. Some suggestions for individual local agencies to support are under consideration with discussion to follow in 2025.

The next Witness and Mission Meeting will be held on January 8, 2025.

Benevolence

First Fruit balance reviewed.

No payments made

The current benevolence income does not support the final two \$400 payments to Mission Cry and Liberty Center

Directed Funds balance reviewed.

No payments made.

The current benevolence income does not support the final \$500 CRU payment in support of Jay Herman.

Worship - Reported by Joan Eckermann

1. Christmas decoration tear down at church is scheduled for Saturday, January 11th at 10am.
2. The first Board of Worship meeting for 2025 will be Tuesday, February 11 at 7pm (after choir).
3. Rachel Beeler will keep sending the liturgical write ups to Joyce throughout 2025.

Old Business:

Future Planning Committee- Jayne reported that future planning will be in several phases. A Small Church Symposium will be addressed as part of the Future Planning Committee. Congregational discussions will be encouraged in the near future. We will focus on how small churches can thrive and be successful. Gary Anderson and Jennifer Haar are on this team with Jayne.

New Business:

1. Jayne has emailed a plan about the Future Planning Committee to members of the congregation.
2. Parsonage sale update- Submitted by Joe Hammel
The parsonage has been on the market for 55 days. One Open House was held with five attendees. Since then, there have been five showings with other agents. Feedback has been that the home needs a few updates. The parsonage is listed at \$319,000. A recommendation was made to reduce the price \$10,000. At this time, the council decided to keep the price at \$319,000.
3. Elmore Food Pantry and the IRS
Mike made a motion, second Linda, that the food pantry can be under the umbrella of Grace Lutheran Church for the purpose of a tax status for up to three years. Motion carried.
4. We have no Council President for 2025. Per Robert's Rule of Order, Karen Hammel (secretary) and Mike Schlievert (treasurer) will dually serve as acting President until a member comes forward to serve as our Council President.

Good News: Good news was shared.

The prayer list was updated.

Announcements:

~Cookie Sale - Sunday, December 15, 2025.

~Christmas Pageant - December 22 during worship with punch and cookies following.

~ Prayer Partner reveal - December 22nd.

~Youth Sunday - December 29th.

~The next council meeting will be held on Thursday, January 9, 2025 at 7 pm.

~Board reports are due on January 6, 2025.

~ The Annual Congregational Meeting and Potluck will be held following worship on Sunday, January 26, 2025

A motion was made by Steve, second Deb to adjourn the meeting. The meeting concluded with The Lord's Prayer.

A fun evening filled with delicious food and Christmas fellowship was enjoyed by the council and our guests.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Hammel
Church Council Secretary.