

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 24, 2024
(Revised October 31, 2024)

Members present: Pastor Jenn Kopacz, Randi Buehner, Peggy Stevens, Lori Ann Firehammer, Teresa Wooten, Mary Grant, Nick Gandy, Janet McPherson

Pastor Jenn led the opening prayer.

CALL TO ORDER: Randi called the meeting to order @ 6:40 P.M.

APPROVAL OF AUGUST MINUTES: Pastor Jenn made a motion to approve, seconded by Lori Ann, and was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF TONIGHT'S AGENDA: an update about the fire sprinkler system was added. Janet made a motion to approve, seconded by Teresa, and approved unanimously.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Jenn reviewed Advent season starting on November 10th. She also went to St. Paul Church in Pensacola, (which is in the process of calling a new Pastor) the weekend of October 5-6. Also the ELCA is conducting (via Zoom) boundary training on November 14.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Peggy reported that as of September 30, General fund receipts are more than \$30,000 below the spending plan requirements. As noted in the spending plan adopted in May, withdrawing about \$20,000 from the savings account was anticipated to cover this shortfall. But this cannot be sustained over the long term. She noted that it's vital for Grace to put together a Stewardship committee to plan how to meet the spending plan. The Council discussed ways to make the Congregation aware of the shortfall in revenue, perhaps by asking each member to increase their donations by 10%. It was agreed this needs to be discussed at the Congregational meeting November 17, as well as having financial information on the TV screens in the sanctuary, where it would be more visible. With respect to the proceeds from the sale of the Centerville Road property, \$22,680 was sent to the Florida-Bahamas Synod. After tithing to the ELCA, remaining funds were divided between the Palms Deaf Church and Luther Springs. Additionally, dividends received from the investment of a portion of those funds in a CD total \$2,835 at this point. Janet made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, Pastor Jenn seconded and it carried unanimously.

WORSHIP & MUSIC REPORT: Discussion of asking different members to read a verse before lighting the Advent wreath on the four Sundays. Karen will look into finding members to do this. The cost of poinsettias for the altar has been covered by a member of the committee. The bell choir is participating in an event at First Baptist Church on December 6, which includes other bell choirs from the area. October 6 Music for food concert raised more than \$1,000, and was attended by 60 people.

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FELLOWSHIP REPORT: about 65 people attended Oktoberfest on October 20. Mary will give information on the members who recently joined to Nick, who will add to the next Grace Notes. She will put up a new sign up sheet for the Escape Room event. Also, the floor under the sink in the kitchen has rotted, and needs replacing. Randi will contact Elisa to coordinate repair.

Mary also reported Dave is working on the September report for worship numbers. The August report was sent to the Council.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Update on Centerville Rd. meeting with Kris Albers:

Property updates/First Friday report: Gary Rusinko and Dean Gatzlaff will pressure wash the wooden steps on the outside of the building. Re the metal steps: Not sure if it is necessary to completely replace these; they have a lot of paint flaking off. Peggy had a pressure washing company look at. They will need to be washed before it can be decided to replace. The retention pond needs cleaning out, and a stump needs to be removed.

Inactive members letters: No responses as of yet. Nick offered to make some follow-up phone calls.

Council minutes: Janet will forward to Lisa for posting, after they have been approved.

Sprinkler head system update: Peggy reported it is required to have them inspected once a year. Grace uses a company called Phoenix Fire Safety. The sprinkler heads are at the end of their lifespan. 10 have been replaced, and others need replacing. In order to replace the ones on the outside of the building, vinyl panels have to be loosened first. The quote for replacing these is \$3800.

Cleaning out of downstairs room: Council agreed to have ECHO pick up couches, and have the ones not usable taken to the dump.

NEW BUSINESS

Church website: information on needs updating, such as names of current Council members. This can be done by Lisa.

Website consultation: Nick will look at Grace's.

Congregational meeting: November 17, next Council meeting November 14.

OTHER BUSINESS

Pastor Jenn reported that a key to the church was loaned to the poll supervisor to use on Election Day (Grace is used as a precinct). This policy was approved by the Council.

Mike Kosturko volunteered to deliver hurricane relief supplies to Lowe's tomorrow for Taylor County residents. It was agreed that some unused items around the Church could be donated.

Buddy Dewar has donated a gas grill to be kept at the church, possibly to be stored in the supply room near kitchen. Some of the old metal folding chairs in the closet could be donated to ECHO.

Pastor Jenn led the Lord's Prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet McPherson
Secretary