Grace Lutheran Church Council

March 11, 2021

The March 11, 2021 Grace Lutheran Church Council meeting was held via Zoom at 7 pm. The meeting was brought to order by President, Gary Anderson. Those in attendance were: Amy Simkus, Steve Simkus, Karen Hammel, Nancy Pries, Mary Schlievert, Deb Boos, Gary Anderson, Randy Jacobs, Pastor Jaci, and guest, Joyce Bruntz. Pastor Jaci opened the meeting with prayer.

Good News!

\*Many council and congregational members are getting vaccinated!

\*Some nursing homes are allowing visitations!

\*Deb and Jeff Boos will be grandparents again!

\*Mike Schlievert’s health is improving!

Prayer concerns were addressed.

The February 11, 20201 secretary’s report was approved as submitted.

The February financial report was approved as submitted.

Jennifer Marquardt and Mike Schlievert have agreed to be members of the Audit Committee.

**Board of Worship** – Submitted by Rachel Beeler

\*The Board of Worship has not met since our initial meeting in January 2021. We plan for an April meeting post-Easter to prepare for the upcoming liturgical seasons and summer worship.

\*The Board of Worship and Council will be re-evaluating the situation for summer worship and as it appears restrictions may begin to be lifted in the next few months, we might look at summer as a possible time to "normalize" our worship again.

\* Deacons for Drive Up Worship - A second rotation was completed by Joyce for the months of April & May and will be available to deacons in the coming week(s).

\* Worship ○ Midweek Lent Services will continue for 2 more weeks on March 17th & March 24th). Join us at 7pm in the church parking lot.

\* Palm Sunday (Sunday, March 28th)

\*Drive -Up Worship; distribution of palms w/ Holy Communion ○ Maundy-Thursday (Thursday, April 1st) \* Drive-Up Worship w/Holy Communion @ 7pm; stripping of altar - Good Friday (Friday, April 2nd)

\*Drive-Worship @ 7pm; “Service of the Nails”; distribution of nails

\* Easter Vigil (Saturday, April 3rd) Virtual service; check email and/or Facebook that day for link

\* Easter (Sunday April 4th): Drive-Up Worship w/Holy Communion

\* Anthems - Bobbie, Joan and I will continue to offer special music anthems through the end of May

**Board of Congregational Life** – Reported by Mary Schlievert

The board met on February 2, 2021. Attendance: Mary S. (Chair), Joan E., Linda S., Nancy B., Rachel B.

The meeting opened with prayer. Mary reviewed the constitutional responsibilities of the board. These include

* Shepherds- An old Nevergall-era program no longer being used
* WELCA-  overseen by this board but self-contained and self-sufficient
* Dartball- Does the board pay any fees?
* Friends Helping Friends - Another defunct activity, we may look to revive this post-COVID
* Funeral Meals - Notebook in kitchen, use church credit card, may need new people to organize meals. We are going to see what other area churches do, some just have the meals catered.
* Prayer Partners - 11 people signed up for 2021

 Next, we reviewed past activities to see which ones we may pursue in the future. These included Rally Day, Seder

Meal, Easter Vigil Reception, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinners to benefit Youth Travel Fund, Potluck Brunch for January meeting, Spotlight On, and Funeral Meals.

     Activities with limited past participation included Mud Hens/Walleye games, Game Nights, and Movie Outings.

      The Valentine Love activity was successful with 4 dozen carnations being distributed. Also look for a Mother’s Day and a Father’s Day event upcoming. Ideas for COVID-safe events included Who’s Who in the Pew, Parking Lot Bingo, TailGate party in the parking lot, and a Digital Scavenger Hunt.

       We discussed how often to have congregational events and the possibility of a survey to see what people might be interested in. We will follow-up at subsequent meetings.

**Call Committee** – Reported by Amy Simkus – Final edits are being made to the Ministry Site Profile. It will be presented to council soon.

**Board of Witness and Mission** – Reported by Amy Simkus

Thank you to everyone who took the time to fill out the Benevolence Survey. The top three results of the survey are as follows: Hunger and Nutrition, Veterans Support, Shelter and Homelessness.

**Board of Property** – Reported by Steve Simkus

\*A new sign has been installed in front of the church on Route 51. More letters will be purchased to gain the optimum use out of the space to share messages.

\*A motion was made by Gary, second Nancy to accept the following proposal for the bell tower bid. Motion carried.

The motion is as follows:

**That the bid from Chime Master (**[**www.chimemaster.com**](http://www.chimemaster.com/)**) to restore the Grace bell tower and bell to its original operating condition at a cost of $5,100 (**date of bid?) **be submitted to the Grace Congregation for approval in accordance with the requirements of C12.05 of the Grace Constitution and Bylaw V, I to the Constitution;**

**That funding for this project be provided from the Grace Memorial Fund and any contributions received and dedicated to the bell tower project;**

**That a Congregational Meeting be called to take place after worship on Sunday, the 18th of April to consider this proposal; and**

**That the Grace Board of Property and Congregation Council recommend approval by the Congregation.**

**Pastor’s Report:** - Reported by Pastor Jaci

Work is in progress to prepare for Lenten Week Services, Holy Week, and Easter Sunday.

Pastor is considering a Confirmation Service on Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 2021.

A motion was made by Amy, second Randy to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting closed with The Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Hammel

Church Council Secretary