

Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting Tuesday, December 8th, 2009

Members Present-Scott Singlestad, Julie Grunwald, Randy Zimmerman, Brad Connors, Cap Peterson, Pastor Roger Haug, Pastor Dan Doering, Mark Christiansen, Matt Potter, Robin Dulas **Not Present**-Diane Beckman, Sonja Highum

Scott called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. We opened with prayer.

Scott called for a motion to accept the minutes from the November meeting. The motion was seconded and approved.

SCRIP Ministry Team-No report.

Grace Garden-No report. Pastor Dan added that there will be \$1.00 per week increase per child. The center is currently full.

3rd Gear-Report submitted. I wanted to acknowledge 2 people who have chosen to minister to our kids and are doing an excellent job relating and sharing God's love. Sondra Hermann and Britney Musolf have been a HUGE presence in the lives of the 3rd Gear kids and have passionate hearts for their spiritual well-beings! ADVENT CONSPIRACY – 3rd Gearians have been asked to donate \$10 of Christmas money to efforts of drilling wells in areas of the world that need it. We're semi-piggybacking with Grace in this effort. December 9 - The Blindside – 3rd Gear and 20/20 Ministries are combining once again to view this box office smash in Owatonna. Plan B and C are, of course, in place due to the threat of winter warnings. December 16 - Cross Generational Event with 3rd Gear and a local nursing home. December 23 – 3rd Gear will be traveling for a Christmas experience they will never forget. December 30 - No 3rd Gear.

A motion was made to accept the above reports. The motion was seconded and approved.

Treasurers Report-Report submitted. November was a surprising month. It consisted of 5 Sundays and a healthy offerings total. Expenses have been held in check and all bills are current. The only bill that has not been paid is the benevolence and that item is on the agenda for tonight. We are currently working on the 2010 budget and probably will work with a \$400,000 budget which is \$60,000 less than 2009. The second file is the investment report for November. Interest for the month was \$68,173.88. We are receiving a few more donation requests. The total to donate is \$292,000 so far this year. The average interest rate on our investment for November was between 4%-6%. A motion was made to accept this report. The motion was seconded and approved.

The following reports are approved via a consent agenda format. A motion was made to accept the following reports. The motion was seconded and approved.

Property Ministry Team-No report. The final windows have been installed in the parsonage garage. The property team is looking at the endowment money and has several projects in mind.

Management Ministry Team-Report submitted. The management team did meet in November and most of the discussion was focused on the petition and vote that was coming. There were a couple of small items reviewed but nothing pressing. I'm concerned about the 2010 Income vs. Expenses after this vote. Would Robin be able to run a report to show approximately the net giving lost this year from the members that have decided to leave Grace? We don't need to see names but instead a dollar amount that we feel will be gone next year. I believe this will be helpful in our discussion and we look for direction going into 2010. Also, it would be helpful to see where the Investment Committee is sitting right now. I have not seen the "long term" investment policy statement for Grace Lutheran Church that has been delayed.

Stewardship Ministry Team-Report submitted. The stewardship ministry team, with much assistance from Pastor Roger and Robin, conducted the annual fall pledge campaign albeit in very tumultuous time in our church. The hope of the campaign was to simply keep the thought of stewardship in the mind of the congregation during this time of struggle and disagreement. Expectations were low in quantitative aspects. Results are still expected through December as pledges come in.

Worship Ministry Team-No report. Pastor Roger added that many are stepping up to provide music for our services and the worship team meeting was very positive.

Evangelism Ministry Team-No report. Pastor Dan added that there will be a pajama drive for the CADA house in Mankato again this year. There will also be a \$1.00 offering conducted during the Christmas services that will be given for wells for safe, clean water in conjunction with Advent Conspiracy.

Education Ministry Team-No report. Good News!! We are proceeding with the Christmas program thanks to Karen and Kristy and Stephanie and many volunteers.

Pastor Dan-Report submitted. November was the most difficult month of my ministry here at Grace as we received the petition and held the vote. I am glad that we held the vote, but grieve the loss of folks who have decided to leave and want to make sure that they feel welcome to return if that's the way they are being led. We are continuing to do some great ministry here, and I am looking forward to what the future has to hold. We have lost some leadership in some key positions, and I have been impressed by the willingness of members to step-up to volunteer to fill these roles. I will continue to reach out to other members to invite them to partner in ministries that need leadership. Finally, I wish to thank all the members of the council for the additional time and effort you have put forward during the past few months. You have gone beyond the call of duty, and I feel blessed to be partners with you in this ministry.

Pastor Roger-Report submitted. I agree with Pastor Dan that it's been a trying month. While a lot of different feelings surfaced, what has been clear to me is the strength of God's presence in challenges like we just went through, and are still dealing with. The remarkable thing is that people's faith has been and still is our number one priority, regardless of age. The preaching of the Gospel and the surprising ways of God, like coming in a baby born to an unwed mother, will continue to be our lifeblood as leaders and Pastors. As we continue our responsibilities here, please know that the strength and guidance to do so comes from God Himself. This is not something you and I manufacture. Let go and Let God is a standard AA phrase, and applicable to all of us as leaders. Let us look to God, His son, and His Holy Spirit to guide us in all matters of faith and life. God bless.

Council Action Items-None

Old Business-None

Discussion Items-The council discussed how to proceed with our monthly benevolence payments to the synod. As a council we voted to suspend the benevolence payments in September. The synod office has offered options for our benevolence payments. A motion was made to resume benevolence payments starting January 2010. The motion was rescinded and will be revisited once the annual budget is determined and discussed at the annual meeting. Scott called for a motion to destroy the ballots from the special congregational meeting and vote. The motion was seconded and approved.

New Business-After a short discussion it was decided that the \$250,000.00 that was going to be sent to the synod's "Funds for Leaders" program but was withheld by a motion at the regular September council meeting will now remain within the control of our church. Scott gathered several names of congregation members that are willing to serve on a committee that would fall under the Education Ministry Team. A motion was made to set up this committee under education to manage this money. The motion was tabled as Pastor Dan requested he be allowed to gather some additional information by calling the Candidacy Committee Chairperson at the synod office. We will discuss this further at the January council meeting.

Listening Post-Concerns have been voiced regarding social statements on the ELCA website. Pastor Roger will gather information on this and bring the information back to the council. There is also a concern over the social hall being used for Sunday school leaving no place for coffee and snacks after the early service. We will look into how to remedy this.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. The motion was seconded and approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Grunwald

Grace Lutheran Council Secretary