

**Grace Lutheran Church Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**September 13, 2011**

Meeting called to order by Mark Lee, and Mark led us in an opening prayer.

August meeting minutes were approved.

**Finance – Report Attached**

- The bills are paid!
- Summer Savings still has approximately \$4000.
- The \$15450 that was taken from savings comes from the Associate Pastor Account and Summer Savings.

**Education**

- All set for 1<sup>st</sup> rotation of SS – Ruth
- A couple of new teachers are working with us this year
- 49 children participated in Rally Day.
- Continue to look for someone to lead music at the beginning of SS
- October 30<sup>th</sup> will be taking SS next door to Arborview
- 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders currently have no place to meet. Would like to allow them to meet in the youth room.

**Personnel**

- At our last meeting, the main topic was the budget. We are presenting a 2% salary increase.

**Youth**

- 5<sup>TH</sup> – 8<sup>TH</sup> Graders will take a trip to Smith's Tree Maize on October 2.
- High School kids will participate in Day of Caring in October
- Senior Youth Gathering is Nov. 11-13 in Manitowoc.

**Church in Society**

- In October we will run a food drive for the Pantry and again be collecting bars of soap for Lutheran World Relief
- Continue to try and volunteer with Habitat for Humanity – Not sure if they can use us.
- Homeless Shelter – Wanted to start up in October, but do not have the City Councils approval. Probably will be pushed back to November. Stacy has volunteered to be the volunteer coordinator this year for the Homeless Shelter.
- Hope's Door – A little bit of confusion as to what we can do to help, they still need to fill out the paperwork for a nonprofit organization.

## **Fellowship**

- October – we have several options for events – a) hayride b) going to Altenburg’s pumpkin patch and decorating pumpkins afterwards c) hosting a bring-your-own pumpkin and decorating party. We will decide which option we will do Sunday at our meeting.
- November – Pie Social will be Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- January – We are thinking of hosting a movie/card game day. More information to follow.
- A suggestion was made to do caroling at Arborview in December – maybe on a Wednesday night since Choir will be practicing.
- Next meeting will be Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup> following the 10:30 service in the church kitchen.

## **Evangelism**

- Win – Rally Day Booth – Boomerangs. “Throw out God’s Love and Watch it Come Back”. Kids had a good time with the message.
- Visitor Center – No one is approaching the “Know it All’s” at the visitor center. Joanne will see how things go with this idea through the end of October, and if no one is using this service, we will discontinue the “Know it All’s”.
- Silent Greeter skit is planned for 9/18/11.
- New Member Sponsors are being contacted with information letters as to what their duties involve.
- Newcomer’s Orientation will be held Sunday, September 25.
- Discover Your Place in Ministry/Discover Grace Lunch will be held on Sunday, October 2.
- An article introducing Pastor Kristi to the community was in the Daily Tribune on Saturday, September 3.
- Next meeting will be September 19 at 5:30 p.m.

## **Stewardship**

- Focusing on Stewardship Drive “The Whole Earth is Filled with the Presence of God”. There will be different themes for each week.
- Dessert Feasts will be held on October 11, 12, and 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Last night went to St. Andrews in Wausau to Stewardship Seminar
- October 23 is Commitment Sunday.

## **Worship**

- Met on August 31 and plans were finalized for our South America booth for Rally Sunday. Thanks to Lorra Walton for her help in teaching the song, and to those who helped with our display.
- The new ELW Liturgy Setting 6 was used at the 8 am service for the first time on September 11, and will be used in to November.

### **Pastor Kent**

- Registration deadline for Mission Trip is this Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Mission Planning team will meet and review applications.
- In November, planning session with group will take place and we will get the ground crew and the noisy offerings going.
- Next Month for Council meeting we will go to the Dessert Feast first and the Council meeting will start at 7:30. First on the Agenda will be Confirmation Faith Papers. We will finish the Faith Papers Sunday, October 16 between services.

### **Pastor Kristi**

- Grace University begins next week.
- Adult Forums start on Sunday's between services.
- Starting up a Women's Group on September 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Applying to do a Community Leadership Program in Wisconsin Rapids for Continuing Education.

### **Budget**

- Board of Church and Society – No Change
- Board of Education – Increase SS supplies – Consistently need more than \$200. Bibles – ordered in bulk this year for less costs, probably won't need to order for 3 more years.
- Board of Evangelism – No Change
- Board of Fellowship – No Change
- Board of Property – Increase in Building Supplies/Repairs/Maintenance. Promissory Note payment will be made in October.
- Board of Stewardship – Increase Stewardship Program due to cost of mailings. Simply giving increased due to the number of transactions (that's a good thing!)
- Board of Youth – ELCA Nat'l Youth Gathering & Counselors – Kids earn their own way, this helps support the counselors.
- Board of Worship – Increase due to prices going up. Choir Support – we will no long pay this stipend.
- Administrative Support – Pastor Kent will be taking a Sabbatical in 2012.
- Staff Salary and Support – 2% increased on salaries
- Benevolence – We are moving this to the top of our budget where it should be. Our First Fruits Giving will be increased to 7%. It was suggested that this be discussed at the Dessert Feasts. A suggestion was made on another 5 Year Planning Committee Vision Goals to focus on Benevolence Giving. Another suggestions was made on a "Mission of the Month" during church services. Pastor Kristi explained that our synod gives 55% of their budget to missions.

Our Next Meeting will be October 11 – beginning with the Dessert Feast.