

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL SEPTEMBER 11, 2025 (CORRECTED OCTOBER 9, 2025)

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pastor Jenn Kopacz, Randi Buehner, Teresa Wooten, Peggy Stevens, Mary Grant, Nick Gandy, Karen Bradley, Debra Jahns-Nelsen, Janet McPherson (Absent: Lori Ann Firehammer). Also present: Don Blancett.

DEVOTION: Pastor Jenn led a prayer and discussion remembering the anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

CALL TO ORDER: Randi called the meeting to order @ 6:42 PM.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS: The Fellowship report and the Treasurer's Report were removed from the Consent Agenda for separate discussion. Karen noted a correction to Worship & Music report: Christmas music concert will be on December 21. Mary made a motion to accept the following, seconded by Teresa: August Council meeting minutes, Music & Worship report, Pastor's report, Stewardship report and Community Ministry report, (which also included a flyer from Nick about a football watching party at his home on September 26), ***minus the two items removed.*** The motion passed unanimously. Regarding the Fellowship report: Oktoberfest is currently scheduled for Sunday, October 5th, which is also when a Music for Food Concert is scheduled. Mary requested that Oktoberfest be moved to the next week, October 12th, and also asked the Council if anyone has space in their freezers to store food until then. ***A couple council members offered space in their freezers if needed. Note: A couple days after the Council meeting, Mary emailed the Council that Oktoberfest had been moved back to October 5th. There was no motion made, or vote taken about this.***

TREASURER'S REPORT: Peggy reviewed the Treasurer's report, noting the shortfall has increased due to the premiums for windstorm and hail insurance. Also some funds from Bank of America Savings have been transferred to Certificates of Deposit at B.O.A. The Church also has two CDs at Champions First Credit Union, which will generate interest income. Peggy also reviewed the pass-through funds, which include Manna on Meridian, KidSafe (LSSNF), and noted the Family in Need fund has a negative balance.

NEW BUSINESS

SABBATICAL CONTINUED DISCUSSION: Pastor Jenn is planning her sabbatical for the next fiscal year in the summer of 2026. She has applied for a grant to assist with things such as travel expenses, and is working on having other Pastors fill in. There will be a committee for working on procedures during her sabbatical.

LAND DISCUSSION/RENTAL POSSIBILITIES WITH SARAH SPRINGER: Randi met with Sarah Springer, the owner and Broker of Pathways Realty about possibly renting out space in the church, as well as selling some of vacant land around the church. The latter option would possibly require re-zoning of the land. ***Randi is still working with Sarah Springer on this.***

OPENINGS ON COUNCIL: The Financial Secretary position is vacant now, and Janet's term as Council Secretary ends on May 31, 2026. The Council welcomes any suggestions on filling these two positions.

I/T COMPUTER UPDATES: Peggy will be meeting with Eric Clark of I.T. Solutions tomorrow. It was discovered that Xfinity had incorrectly installed some network connections. ***On a separate note, Lisa Rubin's computer needs to be replaced.***

CHURCH WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT AND DESIGN: ***Randi reported Denise Wetzel has not responded to us. Peggy suggested Kelly Wenum as a possible alternative, and will follow up with her.***

OTHER BUSINESS: Peggy reported three fraudulent ACH transactions on the Church's checking account in August. Fortunately Bank of America's Fraud Department refunded all the payments, and put a stop payment on ACH transactions. This has never occurred before. Peggy also received a donation from a member for the flower fund, which can be used when no one has signed up to sponsor flowers, and for poinsettias and Easter lilies. Artistic Flowers is increasing the charge from \$40.00 to \$45.00, **effective immediately, but an anonymous donor has covered the increase through the end of 2025, so members won't see the increase until January. The Worship & Music Committee is requested to shop florists to see if there are alternative options.**

Don Blancett provided a list of possible solutions to help Grace's financial situation to Randi. The Council will discuss further at the next Council meeting.

Time and talent sheets are still being inputted by Lisa.

Debra received Grace's Strategic Plan from Buddy Dewar. She will send to the council

Randi thanked the Council for cards and notes after her Mom's passing recently.

Peggy announced that Grace now has a Costco membership.

Next Council meeting: October 9, 2025 @ 7:00 PM

Mary made a motion to adjourn, Teresa seconded. Pastor Jenn led the Lord's Prayer, and the meeting adjourned @ 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet McPherson
Secretary