

GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF BIG SANDY
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – November 20, 2024
“Through grace we grow, share and spread God love.”

On November 20, 2024, Len Flesher called the Council meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Member of the Council present included: Lynette Mass, Liz Eddy, Bev Streeter, Todd Streeter, Dave Hoover, Len Flesher, Dick Rhode, Lorelie Robinson, and Lynne Jacobs

Opening Prayer

Opening Devotion: Lynette

Approve Agenda Dick made a motion to approve the agenda with the following additions to new business #8 & #9. Second by Todd . Motion passed

Correspondence/Announcements The Spindler’s gave \$500 for community outreach. Motion by Todd to give \$500 to ANGELS of McGregor seconded by David. Motion passed.

Augustana District newsletter

Review and Approve minutes of last meeting Lynette made a motion to approve the October minutes as presented with the following change.... the Date (October 16, 2024). Second by Liz. Motion passed.

Treasurer’s Report A motion was made by Dick to move \$150,000 from the Money market account to Stiffel called Fund Balance. Lynne seconded. Motion Passed. Dick made a motion to approve the treasurer’s report as presented. Second by Liz. Motion passed

Pastor’s Report

- BTRA – Lutheran History & Doctrine. Finished book of Luther. Hope to be done Dec 31
- 5 students in confirmation studying Old Testament. Meeting 2nd & 4th Sundays 10:00 – 10:45
Proposed confirmation is October 26, 2025
- Completed 2 pastoral visits & 3 listening sessions
- Pastor to be gone March 3- 7, 2025, gone two Sundays and Ash Wednesday.
- Addition to bulletins about LCMC

Team Reports:

Worship and Music:

- Worship discussion; starting in January will do the liturgy from the red hymnal the third Sunday of the month.
- Christmas choir will start practice December Sundays and sing on Christmas Eve.

Building and Property:

-The Sanctuary North Exterior Wall project is nearing completion. The siding was installed on Friday November 15 after they installed the new cross window. The stained glass will need to be installed next. Todd Streeter has been in charge of this project.

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- The dishwasher has been installed in the kitchen and necessary adjustments and connections made. Len Flesher was in charge of this project, working with Todd Streeter and others.
- The list is up for volunteers to sign up for sidewalk snow removal this winter. Feel free to add your name. Daryl Doering will be servicing the equipment, which includes putting the lawn mowers away and getting the snowblower ready for the season.
- Next project is to work on is the mold in the back hallway.
- At some time in the near future we will bring the Building & Property Team together to assess progress towards our previous goals and establish a new list and timeline for future endeavors.

Unfinished items:

1. Sign – tabled until next meeting
 2. Dishwasher – discussed during building and property report.
 3. Tree Removal – Larry Bunge contacted Jesse Rian and he gave a quote for removal of the white pine in the back of the church. A motion was made to remove the oak tree by the Log Church for \$2000 by Dick, seconded by Liz. Motion passed.
 4. Sanctuary Wall/stained class cross – discussed during building and property report.
 5. Funeral Coordinator/Event Coordinator – The council reviewed Rules Governing The Pine Cemetery with the following changes: Change title to Policies rather than Rules, #1 remove the word “immediate”, #9 add the word Home (Funeral Home director) , #12 add the word “Flush” Head and Foot Stones, # 16 add the word casket (All future casket burials). Motion made by Liz, seconded by Dave. Motion passed.
- Information is being gathered regarding the funeral coordinator. More information to January meeting.

New Items:

1. Augustana district confirmation retreat: February 28th – March 2nd Confirmation kids are encouraged to participate in Vining, MN
2. Parsonage: lease, flooring, water softener - Carpeting in Master BR & closet, replace with laminate flooring. The renters will take care of the labor. A motion was made for \$700 for the rental flooring and a water softener with a budget of \$600 by Dave, seconded by Liz. Motion passed.
3. Pam’s vacation coverage
4. Staff Salaries – Last increase was December, 2023. The following increases were approved:
Administrator - \$100 increase per month – new salary \$ 1100/month
Treasurer - \$50 increase per month – new salary \$450/month
Financial Secretary -\$25 increase - new salary \$ 275 per month
Pianist -increase \$10/event – new salary \$110 per event
Substitute Pastor -increase \$15 – new \$150 per Sunday
Lynette made a motion to accept these increases effective December 1, 2024; Dick seconded. Motion passed.

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5. Money market to Stifel transfer – discussed under Treasurer’s report.
6. Advent/Christmas services 5:30 p.m. first Thanksgiving Eve/Advent services (Nov. 27th) to be held in Log Church. Christmas Eve 4:00 p.m. service Dec. 11 after the Advent service will be a family Advent gathering and practice for Sunday School program.
7. December council meeting – no meeting in December
8. Upgrade Sound System - The current system has issues with cell phones in the church. A motion was made to allow the Stewart Sound Systems, LLC to replace the sound system for \$ 722.95 by Dick and seconded by Liz. Motion was passed.
9. Christmas Gifts for Children – Discussion to purchase books, and a bag of fruit, nuts for all the kids in the Sunday school Christmas program.

Devotion for January: Jon

Lord’s Prayer

Adjourn Adjournment at 8:35 p.m.