October Council Meeting Minutes
Oct 19th, 2026 at 6 pm; Hybrid (in person + Zoom)

Present: Pastor Steve, Jennifer Davis, Kristie Evans, Eric Breitenstein, Amy Atkins, Theresa Richards, Jesse Lutabingwa, Liz Peter, Mike Seden & Lynn Caldwell

Absent: James Holden & Jonathan Stamey

1. Call to Order - made by Jennifer @ 6:07 PM

2. Devotion – Theresa
   - Prayer for guidance

3. Ground Rules – Reviewed by Jennifer
   - Please raise your hand to indicate that you would like to speak.
   - Please give your name and state your views on the matter under discussion, including any questions or concerns you may have.
   - In order to allow others ample opportunity to join in the conversation, please keep any subsequent comments by you on the issue/motion succinct and to the point.
   - Please remain quiet when others have the floor so everyone can hear.
   - Please be respectful of those voicing differing opinions.

4. Congregational Input -
   Jennifer - likes the Little Lutherans section of the sanctuary
   Kristie - likes this and the other corner with prayer focus

5. Approval of September Council Minutes and review of email voting -

   A. Amendment requested by Jessie - move his name from "Present" to "Absent".
   B. Jessie moved to accept September Council minutes with the aforementioned amendment. Liz seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.
   C. There was no email voting in the month of September.

6. Strategic Visioning – Jennifer

   A. Review Organizational Chart and Liaison Assignments
      - General agreement that these are correct

   B. Strategic Plan – Review 2027 Council Goals

      1) Jennifer: How do we move forward with goals?
      2) Steve: Gave status of year 2027 goals in the 2026 - 2029 Strategic Plan
      3) General discussion by council members

7. Policy – Jennifer. No update.

8. Monitoring and Oversight

A. Reports:

1) Senior Pastor Report
   - Steve may supervise a seminarian intern distantly
2) Campus Ministry Coordinator
3) Music Ministry Report
4) Congregational Life Minister Report
5) Office Manager Report
6) Facilities Report
7) Treasurer Report
   a. We're in good shape. Not concerned right now.
   b. Used the reserve to take care of the short fall.
   c. Mike is in favor of informing people of our current financial situation

B. Old Business

1) Capital Campaign Updates
   a. Gifts and pledges received to date - $130K; 1-to-1 matching brings total to $260K
   b. Projects' update
      i. Roof Replacement - Complete
      ii. Councill House Update - Complete
      iii. Parking Lot Expansion – Complete
      iv. Playground Project -
         a) Is now fully funded. The contract can be signed and the project moved forward
         b) No specific timeline for installation
      v. Grace Place Update - New floor plan has been developed. No new bid numbers received.
      vi. Operational Cash Reserve

2) Nursery Coordinator Position -
   a. We've hired Karen and Faith. We also have some volunteers and a college student who helps when home from school.
   b. From this pool we hope to pick a coordinator.

3) Stained Glass Windows repair - To be repaired most likely in Spring 2027.

C. New Business

1) Financial Situation - P. Steve revisited the "Strengthening the Financial Situation Position of Grace Lutheran" developed in November 2022

a. Lynn - why are we not passing the offering plate anymore? P. Steve said we've gone back and forth and doesn't care for it.
b. P. Steve talked about giving trends over the past few months. Also mentioned how one family's giving trend, when disrupted, affected recent offering numbers.

2) Facility Requests -
   i) Motion to approve High Country Visually Impaired Persons and Sigma Nu (for Fellowship Hall, 7:30-9:30, 10/20/26, for fraternity meeting) facility use requests made by Jesse. Motion seconded by Liz. The motion passed unanimously.

3) Discussion of CNN article – *'Tsunami' of Church Closings*

9. Meeting adjourned with prayer – Theresa

Upcoming Devotion List:
Nov - Amy
Dec - Lynn
Jan - Jonathan
Feb - James
Mar - Eric
Apr - Kristie
May - Jennifer
June - TBD
July - TBD
Aug - TBD