

Ascension Lutheran Church – Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 09, 2019

In attendance:

Council Members: Linda Achziger, Allen Brookshire, Connie Fringer, Norm Fringer, Isaac Hein, Sherry Hitztaler, Kathy Johnson, Pastor John Larson, Don Loptien, Tim McClaren, Arvin Michel, Charles Mielke, Carol Stamp, Brian Wilson, Marion Wilson

Guests: Mary Hert (Ladies Guild VP)

Call to Order: Arvin Michel called the meeting to order at 6:26 pm.

Opening Prayer: Pastor John Larson offered an opening prayer.

Opening Devotion: Marion Wilson read a devotion titled "Searching for Strength". The devotion was based on Psalm 46:1 "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

Approval of Meeting Agenda

- The July 9, 2019 meeting agenda was presented by Arvin Michel.
- There was a correction to remove the following item from the **Ongoing Business** section, "Electronic Documents Storage Report update."
- The Council members **approved** the agenda as revised.

Approval of Previous Council Meeting Minutes

- Arvin Michel asked for corrections or additions to the June 11, 2019 Council meeting minutes, with the following two corrections notes.
 - Page 2, fourth bullet point, "Pastor received an update from ~~June Donovan~~ **Jude Donovan**..."
 - Page 6, under Stewardship, the following correction was made: "...It is based on Psalm 116:12, which reads 'What shall I return to the Lord for all ~~His goodness~~ **God's bounty** to me?'"
- The Council members **approved** the meeting minutes as corrected.

New Business

Pastor Michael Paulison – Mission Experience to Haiti – Financial support with Thrivent Choice.

- Pastor John Larson explained that he met with Pastor Michael Paulison to discuss his missions in Haiti. Rev. Paulison explained that his salary is paid by mission donations from congregations. Also, the mission activity in Haiti has been on hold for 6 months due to turmoil in the country. There is an extreme shortage of funds to pay Rev. Paulison. So, Pastor Larson proposed that ALC offer a donation to Rev. Paulison to help with Haiti mission endeavors, which will likely start up again soon. Other congregations will also be contacted to financially assist with the Haiti mission.
- A **motion** was made to send \$2,000 to Pastor Michael Paulison using the Thrivent Choice funds. The motion **passed unanimously**.
- It was noted that Rev. Paulison will be approaching ALC Foundation to ask for funding.

Ladies Guild request and Motion

- Carol Stamp reported that the Ladies Guild has been having much discussion regarding the ever increasing cost of food for funeral meals. Additionally, a funeral reception luncheon is a function of the church and not just the Ladies Guild. Also, the search continues to find a committee of one or more people to coordinate the duties of preparing and serving funeral luncheons.
- The Ladies Guild is asking for a dedicated account be created and funded to handle the cost of funeral luncheons.
- Pastor Larson mentioned that as part of the funeral planning, he informs the family that luncheons cost about \$3.00 per person. So, families will sometimes contribute toward the luncheon but sometimes they do not. If there is a contribution and it is over the cost for the meal, the Ladies Guild will use the excess funds toward the next funeral luncheon.

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- After some discussion, a ***motion*** was made to create a dedicated "Funeral Reception" account to underwrite the cost of funeral luncheons/receptions. Any monies received as a donation will be deposited to this account. The motion ***passed unanimously***.
- Furthermore, the current "Ladies Guild Pass Thru" account (017-00-04-02) will be transferred to the new dedicated "Funeral Reception" account after it is set up.

Appointment of *Nominating Committee*

- Arvin Michel reported the appointment of the elections nominating committee as follows: Don Loptien, Jerry Gerdes, and Anita Baresel. Pastor Larson will also serve on the Committee as a voting member.
- The vacancies that the committee will be working on include: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Trustees, Community Outreach, Stewardship, and Parish Education. Plus the committee will try to fill leadership positions for Youth and Social Ministry boards, which currently do not have chairpersons.
- Of those who currently are serving in the above positions, Chuck Mielke is term limited from serving again on Trustees.

Ongoing Business

University Lutheran Chapel (ULC) in Boulder, Colorado and Campus Ministry update.

- Pastor Larson reported that there were not updates since the June Council meeting.

Council Member Reports

Pastor John Larson

- Pastor passed around the August master church calendar for review and update suggestions.
- As a reminder, Pastor stated the 67th Regular Convention of the LCMS in Tampa, Florida will be July 19-25, 2019. Current LCMS President Matthew Harrison was re-elected and will be presiding over the convention. There was some discussion by Pastor and Arvin on the procedures in conducting business at the convention.
- An adult information class will be held Saturday morning (7/13/2019), and Sunday afternoon (7/14/2019). Hopefully there will be a new member welcoming later in July.

Life Enrichment Series – Marion Wilson

- Marion indicated that the board has nothing to report.

Parish Education – Sherry Hitztaler

- Sherry stated that there was nothing to report from the board.

Community Outreach – Isaac Hein

- Isaac acknowledged there was nothing to report.

Ladies' Guild – Carol Stamp

- Carol Stamp introduced Mary Hert as the new Vice President of the Ladies Guild.
- A handout report was provided to the Council members.
- Two volunteers have agreed to serve on the Craft and Bake Sale committee: Jackie Adams and Charmaine Rohde.
- Edna Achziger agreed to serve as interim Chairperson of Circle 4 (until someone volunteers for the position).

Elders – Don Loptien

- Don reported the Elders will be hosting "Coffee Under the Trees" on August 11th.

Stewardship – Linda Achziger

- Linda Achziger passed around the proposed "Time and Talent" form and requested feedback from the Council members. The form will likely be distributed along with the pledge forms in October 2019. As Linda plans to begin

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printing the Time and Talent forms in the near future, she would like input and correction feedback in the near future.

Director of Education – Kathy Johnson

- Kathy passed around a signup sheet to provide supplies for the Church Picnic. The picnic will be held on the church property September 8, 2019. ALC will provide grilled hamburgers and hot dogs with carry-in dishes supplied by congregation members.
- Wednesday Night Live activities will resume on September 4, 2019.
- The process has begun to purge outdated stuff from the office.

Trustees – Chuck Mielke

- Chuck provided a handout of information and discussed the following topics:
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1.0 Scouts: Troop 361 repaired and painted their shed the last week of June. In addition, they have agreed to provide the labor for both removing and adding new mulch to area outside the Fellowship Hall. The Church will need to provide the new mulch. They plan to remove the mulch on Monday, August 12 and spread new mulch on Monday, August 19.

2.0 Crabapple Trees: Larry Borger from the Littleton Crabapple Route has contacted Ascension and requested that we accept a donation of two Crabapple Trees. These Crabapple trees have smaller apples that do not fall from the tree. The Crabapple trees across Windermere to the east are this type of tree. I am requesting that we accept their offer but place the trees on the east side of the church in an location that does not block either our sign or the Church name. Jerry Peterson has agreed to assist picking the spots to plan the trees.

- There was no objection from the Council on the planting of the Crabapple trees. Chuck is unsure on the date to expect arrival of the trees.

3.0 Education Wing Committee: The Education Wing Committee is making good progress incorporating suggestions received from the congregation into the master plan for both the upper and lower levels of the building. At the Voters Meeting there was discussion about planning a "renovation" to the northern exterior of the building. The Space Planners, Lewis Himes, has notified the Committee that they can develop a plan and drawing for this concept. The proposed cost is \$2275.00. The present Contract is for \$2090.00. The total of the two contracts would be \$4365.00.

- The Education Wing Committee is meeting tonight, July 9, 2019. They would like to make a presentation of their plans to a special Voter's meeting in August.
- Chuck Mielke made a ***motion*** and Don Loptien seconded that the Council approve the additional contract to Lewis Himes not to exceed \$2,300 for an exterior plan on the north side of the church building. After further discussion on the motion, Chuck and Don agreed to withdraw the motion. Although there was a general consensus by Council that the exterior of the building need remodeling, clarification on expanding the contract should be approved by the Voter's Assembly.
- Chuck Mielke asked to be excused from the meeting in order to attend the Education Wing Committee meeting, which was already underway in another part of the building.

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Treasurer – Allen Brookshire

- Allen provided a detailed handout financial report and provide the following highlights:



- Linda Achziger asked to have the \$133.78 balance in Stewardship Pass Thru account (017-00-04-10) be moved to the Stewardship budget account. Allen indicated he would investigate the balance and make the adjustment.

Columbarium Memorial Garden – Norm and Connie Fringer

- A handout was provided explaining some current aspects of the Columbarium Memorial Garden.
- Norm Fringer indicated that there was inurnment of William Siebert on July 2, 2019.
- In order to assist the Pastor and office personnel, an inventory record sheet is being assembled to illustrate Columbarium space that is available versus sold/occupied. A sample of the inventory sheet was passed around for comment.
- There are three niches that are in various stages of being sold. One is on hold for funding and two are going to be followed up on after the middle of July.

Announcements

- A special Voter's meeting will likely be called in August 2019.
- Next regular Voter's meeting is September 22, 2019.
- Next Council meeting is August 13, 2019 at 6:30pm.

Board of the Month

- Columbarium Memorial Garden is the board of the month for August 2019.
- As *Coffee Under the Trees* will continue in August, Columbarium Memorial Garden board should serve as a "backup" to help clean up after the event each Sunday. Other duties include the following: devotion for Council meeting and *Ascension Happenings* newsletter insert each week.

Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 7:33pm.
- In closing, everyone said the Lord's Prayer.

---Respectfully Submitted by Tim McClaren, Secretary

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In attendance:

Council Members: Linda Achziger, Allen Brookshire, Connie Fringer, Norm Fringer, Isaac Hein, Sherry Hitztaler, Kathy Johnson, Pastor John Larson, Don Loptien, Tim McClaren, Arvin Michel, Chuck Mielke, Carol Stamp, Brian Wilson, Marion Wilson, Rev Michael Zehnder

Guests: Mary Hert (Ladies Guild VP)

Call to Order: Arvin Michel called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Opening Prayer: Pastor John Larson offered an opening prayer.

Opening Devotion: Connie Fringer read a devotion titled *Jesus is Calling*. The devotion was based on John 6:37, "All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out." The focus of the devotion was on the love of Jesus.

Approval of Meeting Agenda

- The current meeting agenda of August 13, 2019 was presented by Arvin Michel.
- The Council members **approved** the agenda as presented.

Approval of Previous Council Meeting Minutes

- Arvin Michel asked for corrections or additions to the July 9, 2019 Council meeting minutes.
- As no corrections were indicated, the Council members **approved** the meeting minutes as presented.

New Business

Retention Period for Contribution Envelopes – Mary Hert

- Mary Hert indicated that the current policy on the retention period of parishioner's contribution envelopes is four years. The envelopes along with the retention form are stored in the archive room. In addition, contributions are stored in the office computer and individuals get a quarterly statement of the giving. Also, there are some who give an offering online through the church website. Due to storage constraints and since there are other records of giving Mary suggests that the policy for envelope retention be reduced from 4 years to 2 years. After some discussion by Council, a **motion** was made and seconded that the policy for retention of contribution envelopes be 2 years. After some additional discussion, the **motion passed with a unanimous voice vote**.

LCMS Foundation-Jason Jones Contract Renewal

- Pastor John Larson explained that Jason Jones has been the LCMS Foundation representative for Ascension for the past two years. Jason has scheduled a LCMS Foundation workshop to be held at Ascension in October and it is designed to provide information to prospective participants. There were 72 people who attended the workshop last year.
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- There was some discussion by Council over the topic of renewal of the contract. One point was made that Ascension Foundation has not met to confirm their \$2,500 participation in the contract fee, but they are aware of the approaching deadline.
- Action on the LCMS Foundation contract renewal **question was tabled** until the next Council meeting.

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Library Donations with Matching Thrivent Funds for Mission Experience - Haiti

- Rev. Michael Zehnder informed Council that a number of books from the church library and other sources will be available for purchase by individuals. The books will be offered at a greatly reduced price. Michael suggested taking the funds generated from the sale of the books and contributing to the Mission Experience in Haiti. Also, he proposed using matching funds from Thrivent Choice Dollars to send to the mission project.
- A ***motion*** was made to use up to \$500 Thrivent Choice dollars to match the funds from the book sale and support the Mission Experience - Haiti. After some discussion, the motion ***passed unanimously.***

Ladies' Guild request for Thrivent Funds for November Craft & Bake Sale

- Carol Stamp asked if Council might grant a request for \$1,000 from Thrivent Choice Dollars to be used for the annual *November Craft and Bake Sale*. It was noted that the same amount has been granted to the Ladies' Guild in the past for the project.
- A ***motion*** was made to grant the Ladies' Guild request for \$1,000 from Thrivent Choice dollars to be used for the annual *November Craft and Bake Sale*, the motion ***passed unanimously.***

Voters' Meeting Agenda Items

- Arvin Michel reported that the primary agenda item for the Special Voter's Meeting on August 25, 2019 is the Education Wing Remodel Committee report. Arvin asked Council if there are any other agenda items. But, there were no other agenda items proposed.
- There are 60-75 people expected to attend the Voter's Meeting. A light snack will be provided.
- Chuck Mielke agreed to prepare ballots for any potential voting at the meeting.

2020 Budget Request

- Treasurer Allen Brookshire has provided a 2020 budget expense worksheet to each board chairperson.
- As the congregational 2020 offering pledges are due by October 13, 2019, an income budget estimate can be prepared after that date.
- It has been requested that board chairperson's return expense budget worksheets to the Treasurer by October 13th. In doing so, Allen can put together a total budget estimate by the time Council meets in November.

Ongoing Business

Ladies Guild Transfer of funds to Funeral Receptions Account

- As a follow-up to the motion passed at the July 9, 2019 Council meeting, the funds in the "Ladies Guild Pass Thru" account (017-00-04-02) were transferred to the new dedicated "Funeral Receptions" account (017-00-03-27).

Nominating Committee Update

- Arvin Michel reported at the last Council meeting that the appointment of the elections nominating committee as follows: Anita Baresel, Jerry Gerdes, Pastor John Larson, and Don Loptien.
- Although the Nominating Committee has not met, it was noted that the current officers are eligible for re-election. Also, Chuck Mielke has reached a term limit as chairman of the board of Trustees.
- A final roster of candidates for election will need to be read for the November Council meeting.

LCMS Convention Report & Questions

- Arvin Michel and Rev. Dr. Brad Stoltenow were the District representatives to the National LCMS Convention held in Tampa, Florida on July 20-25, 2019. Arvin prepared a summary of his experience and the article appears in the *Happenings* newsletter.
- In addition, Arvin hopes to prepare and make available a joint report along with Rev. Dr. Stoltenow.
- Arvin further reported to the Council that there were many different resolutions passed and revisions were made before voting. He has asked LCMS leaders to let him know when the final version of all the resolutions, as passed, is available for distribution to congregations.

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- Also, Arvin worked closely on an overture supporting the undeniable fact of a 6-day creation and the age of our earth as described in the Word of God. Arvin gave testimony at the LCMS Convention that the Earth is thousands of years and not millions of years old. The overture went to committee and the resolution passed at the Convention with the 6-day creation but not the age of the earth. Although he is happy the 6-day creation passed, Arvin would have liked to include something on the age of the earth.

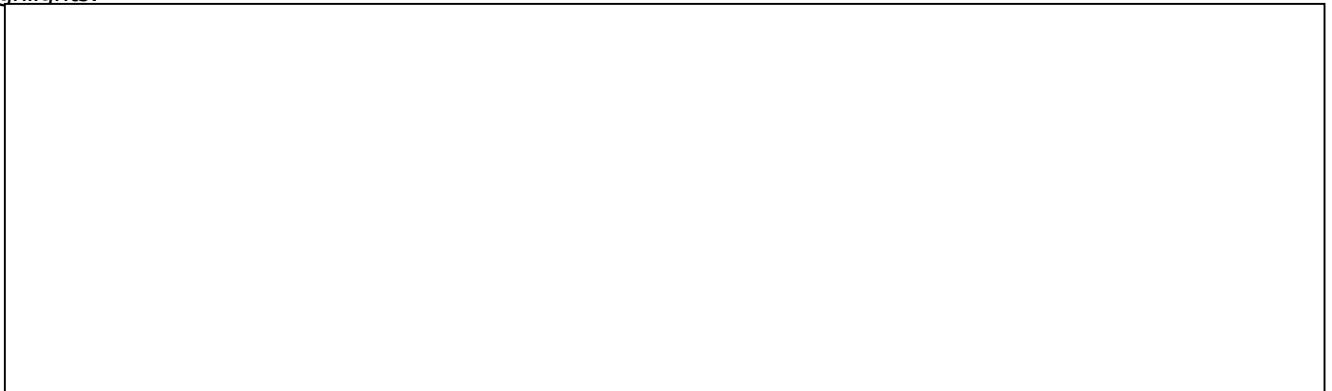
Council Member Reports

Pastor John Larson

- Pastor passed around the September master church calendar for review and update suggestions.
- There will be a new member welcome on August 25, 2019.
- On Saturday, August 10, 2019, an organizational meeting was held concerning funeral receptions at Ascension. Three ladies have agreed to co-chair the committee: Sharon Seible, Gwen Geisler, and Patti Zeggert. Also, there are 6-8 people who are willing to provide help to the leadership in providing the funeral receptions. Watch for an update in the *Happenings* newsletter. How to best do funeral receptions is being discussed.
- In September, the education staff is looking forward to a number of special education and ministry events that will be happening.

Treasurer – Allen Brookshire

- Allen provided a handout detailing the financial situation of the congregation. He verbally provide the following highlights:



- The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

Director of Education – Kathy Johnson

- Kathy passed around a signup sheet to provide supplies for the Church Picnic. The picnic will be held on the church property September 8, 2019 at noon.
- There are still some staffing needs for Sunday school and Wednesday Night Live during the coming school year. Especially there is a need for someone to share teaching responsibilities for High School class on Sunday morning.
- There are some policy revisions being discussed in the Board of Education.
- Young Adults are doing well. They have been holding a Thursday Bible Study twice a month during the summer.

Director of Music Ministry- Rev Michael Zehnder

- *Rev Zehnder provided a handout and read through his report as shown below:*
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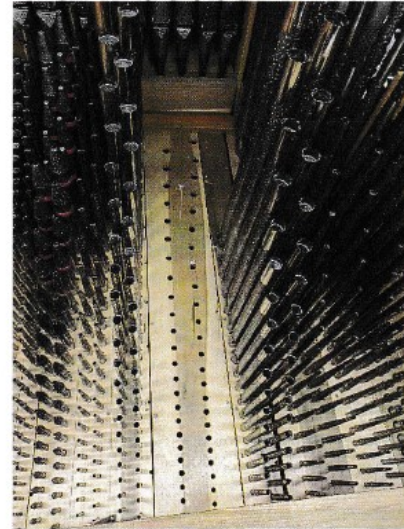
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SUMMER MUSIC SCHEDULE

People have stepped up and every single week in the summer is scheduled with soloists and/or instrumentalists to bless our services with, solos, duets, trios, octets and the like each week. Recent music has included a mixed quartet by Lyle and Linda Landhuis & Tom and Dawn Munson, Ann Baresel, Keyboard with Ann Westra, cello and a piano duet by Gracie and Ruthie Redden.

INSTRUMENTAL REPAIRS – ORGAN

Morel and Associates has begun their work on reversible toe stop for the Zimbelstern and re-doing the leathering on the Swell Gedeckt stoppers. The Gedeckt pipes were removed last Thursday (see picture) and should be returned in about 2 weeks!



INSTRUMENTAL REPAIRS – HANDBELLS

A check for 50% of the Handbell Refurbishment in the amount of \$1575 has been cut and mailed. Durwin and I measured the nine cases for shipping size. Schulmereich has mailed nine fitting pre-postage UPS boxes that are scheduled to arrive this Friday. Upon their arrival, we will ship the bells to the factory.

Work on the bells is expected to take about six weeks and they will be returned toward the end of September. Because of this repair schedule, our Gloria Dei Handbell ringers will begin the season as usual but we will initially be concentrating on music for HandChimes and percussion.

INSTRUMENTAL REPAIRS – SUNDAY SCHOOL CLAVINOVA

The downstairs Clavinova has been repaired by RossTronics of Colorado Springs. It turns out a total of 12 keys were cracked and vulnerable to failure. The cost of repair was \$267.84. Thanks to Chuck Mielke who saved us a \$120 in-service call by delivering and returning the keyboard from the repair shop in Colorado Springs! 😊



HANDBELL PADS DONATED

The six unused handbell pads that were in our music room collecting dust have been donated to Littleton United Methodist Church.

MUSIC MINISTRY RECRUITMENT

We have begun recruitment for all musical groups for the fall. If you are interested, please see Mike Zehnder.

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ADULT EDUCATION HANDBOOK

A handbook detailing our six adult Educational Opportunities will be available on August 25. These groups include: HomeWord Small Group Bible Studies, Sunday Morning Bible Studies, Ladies Tuesday Bible Study, Pastor Ginkel's Wednesday Study, the Young Adult Bible Study and the Wednesday Evening (WNL) study with Pastor Larson.

On August 25 the HomeWord Groups will host Coffee Under the Trees and staff will be hosting an educational book sale in the Narthex to benefit our Haiti Mission.

Columbarium Memorial Garden – Norm and Connie Fringer

- A handout was provided which explained some current aspects of the Columbarium Memorial Garden (See handout content below).
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- . August 6th niche sale to Michael & Mary Lou Regan.
- . The inventory record sheets have been completed and are now in use. A copy of the inventory sheets are being passed around.
- . A Meeting is to be held during the week of August 26th with Tom and Pat Lytle to finalize a niche purchase.
- . The hold is still on for Matt Wagner for the niche next to Joyce.

Walk throughs are routinely done to make sure the CMG is clean and presentable.

There have been no other activities performed during this reporting period.

- Arvin indicated that a resolution was proposed at the recent LCMS National Convention regarding a Biblical view on cremation. Ultimately, no action was taken on the proposed resolution, but all pastors were encouraged to discuss cremation with their parishioners.
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Community Outreach – Isaac Hein

- Isaac indicated that he has nothing to report.

Elders – Don Loptien

- Don stated that there was nothing to report.

Ladies' Guild – Carol Stamp

- Carol had nothing to report.

Life Enrichment Series – Brian and Marion Wilson

- Marion indicated that the board has nothing to report.

Parish Education – Sherry Hitztaler

- Sherry reported that the Board of Parish Education met in July and discussed a salary increase to Extended Day Preschool (EDP) staff.

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- There is a staffing vacancy for EDP. So far, a total of 19 students are registered for the coming school year. Currently, there is a full time and three part time staff, plus the teacher vacancy. There is one possible teacher applicant in the works. Orientation is August 14th and classes are still going to begin August 21st.
- There is a meeting in September 2019 with the hope for a more definite report. Sherry asked for people to pray for the school.

Social Ministry – Pastor John Larson

- Pastor reported that the Littleton Family Services continues to expand at Ascension. They have met 3 times: 1st time there were 19 people, 2nd time there were 45 people, 3rd time there were 89 people. Another distribution is scheduled for August 24th. They had a school supplies handout which was very successful.
- Also, Bri Fort has sent out the Severe Weather Shelter Network calendar. Ascension is responsible for 10 weeks this year. The Network is looking for another host site, as one site has declined to help this winter. Although there are only two sites, so far, Ascension will still only be responsible every third week. Ascension has Thanksgiving week this year.
- A Flu shot clinic will be held at Ascension on September 29th at 9:00AM.

Stewardship – Linda Achziger

- Linda Achziger passed around the amended "Time and Talent" form and requested feedback from the Council members. It was suggested to add "Funeral Reception Committee" under *Groups* on the form.

Trustees – Chuck Mielke

- Chuck provided a handout of information and discussed the following topics:

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- 1.0 Landscaping NE area of Church Grounds: Troop 361. The troop removed mulch on Monday, August 12 and will lay fabric and new mulch on Monday August 19. There were 24 boys and several adults working on the project on the 12th.
 - 2.0 West Wing Renovation: The West Wing Committee is meeting with the Trustees on Thursday at 6pm to finalize the proposal for the Special Voters Meeting on Sunday, August 25.
 - 3.0 Phone line issue: When we changed gas providers from Excel Energy to CenterPoint Energy we were connected by a special fax to the gas meter. This device was interrupting some calls to the Church. This has been fixed.
 - 4.0 Shelter in playground: The shelter has been painted and repaired. Thank you John Rolling.
 - 5.0 Trees in front yard: The Ash Tress in the front yard need trimming. We are seeking bids. Greenleaf Lawns has informed us that they trim church trees at no cost. Jim Mullane is in contact with this company. Another company provided us with a \$3900.00 bid for this project.
 - 6.0 Church keys: Judy Mihok has arranged and processed many of our keys. Thank you Judy.
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- Additionally, Chuck reported there has been a change to the Church's Liability Insurance deductible. It was increased from \$5,000 to \$10,000. The change also included the removal of Terrorism coverage. If we want to add the coverage it will cost an additional \$281 per year.

Youth – Arvin Michel

- The church and council received a thank you from Reese Hitztaler-Stone for our support of sending her and other youth to the National Youth Gathering on July 17, 2019.

Announcements

- A Special Voter's meeting will be held in August 25, 2019 after the 10:00AM worship service.
- The next Regular Voter's meeting is September 22, 2019.
- The next Council meeting is September 10, 2019 at 6:30pm.
- LCMS Foundation Resurrection Workshop is October 20, 2019.

Board of the Month

- Columbarium Memorial Garden is the board of the month for August 2019.
- Ladies Guild is the board of the month for September 2019.
- Parish Education is the board of the month for October 2019.
- As *Coffee Under the Trees* will continue in August, Columbarium Memorial Garden board should serve as a "backup" to help clean up after the event each Sunday.
- Board of the Month duties include the following: devotion for Council meeting, coffee clean up on Sunday and *Ascension Happenings* newsletter insert each week.

Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 7:47PM.
- In closing, everyone said the Lord's Prayer.

----Respectfully Submitted by Tim McClaren, Secretary

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In attendance:

Council Members: Linda Achziger, Allen Brookshire, Connie Fringer, Norm Fringer, Isaac Hein, Kathy Johnson, Pastor John Larson, Don Loptien, Dennis Lord, Tim McClaren, Arvin Michel, Carol Stamp, Brian Wilson, Marion Wilson

Guests: Kelly Thom (Trustees)

Call to Order: Arvin Michel called the meeting to order at 6:27 pm.

Opening Prayer: Pastor John Larson offered an opening prayer.

Opening Devotion: Carol Stamp read a devotion entitled *Your Whispering Thoughts*. The driving point in the devotion centered on all the time in our life when we are waiting in line, waiting in traffic, and other times that seem wasted. Instead of viewing them as wasted, we should use the time to talk to our Heavenly Father in prayer.

Approval of Meeting Agenda

- The current meeting agenda of September 10, 2019 was presented by Arvin Michel.
- One item was added to the agenda under **Ongoing Business**, titled *LCMS Foundation-Jason Jones Contract Renewal*
- The Council members **approved** the agenda as amended.

Approval of Previous Council Meeting Minutes

- Arvin Michel asked for corrections or additions to the August 13, 2019 Council meeting minutes.
- One correction was proposed under *Director of Education – Kathy Johnson*, the last bullet point should read as follows:
 - Young Adults are doing well. They have been holding a Thursday Bible Study ~~once~~ **twice** a month during the summer.
- The Council members **approved** the meeting minutes as amended.

New Business

Associate Membership for Ascension

- Arvin Michel asked for the agenda item to be delayed until later in the meeting under the Elders Report.

2019 Annual Report

- Arvin Michel reminded Council members to begin preparation for their submission to the *2019 Annual Report*. The topic will remain an agenda item for the next few Council meetings.

Ongoing Business

2020 Budget

- Allen Brookshire noted that budget items are due to him by the October Council meeting, so he can prepare a combined budget for the November Council meeting. It was also noted that giving pledges from the congregation are due in October, but that people tend to not turn them in on time.
- As chair to the Finance Committee, Dennis Lord indicated that he would really like input from each of the boards. But, he especially wants input from those that anticipate big financial budget changes for the 2020 fiscal year.

2020 Nominating Committee Report

- Don Loptien reported that the committee was excited to have individuals agree to continued service on many of the board and officer positions. Plus, they are likely going to have some new people involved in certain positions.
- They plan to have the slate of candidates ready before the elections at the November Voter's meeting.

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LCMS Convention Report & Questions

- Arvin Michel received word that the final complete report from the 2019 LCMS National Convention should be published by the beginning of October 2019. Arvin will notify us when the report is ready.

LCMS Foundation-Jason Jones Contract Renewal

- Pastor John Larson reported that the Ascension Lutheran Church Foundation plans to meet Thursday, September 12, 2019 to vote on their budget for the coming year. One line item in the budget includes \$2,500 to apply towards renewal of the LCMS Foundation contract with Jason Jones.
- As was discussed at the last council meeting, the total contract renewal cost for the LCMS Foundation is \$5,000 and it is due October 1, 2019.
- A ***motion*** was made that Council will agree to contribute \$2,500 from Thrivent Choice dollars to cover the balance of the \$5,000 LCMS Foundation contract with Jason Jones. With no further discussion, the motion ***passed unanimously via voice vote.***

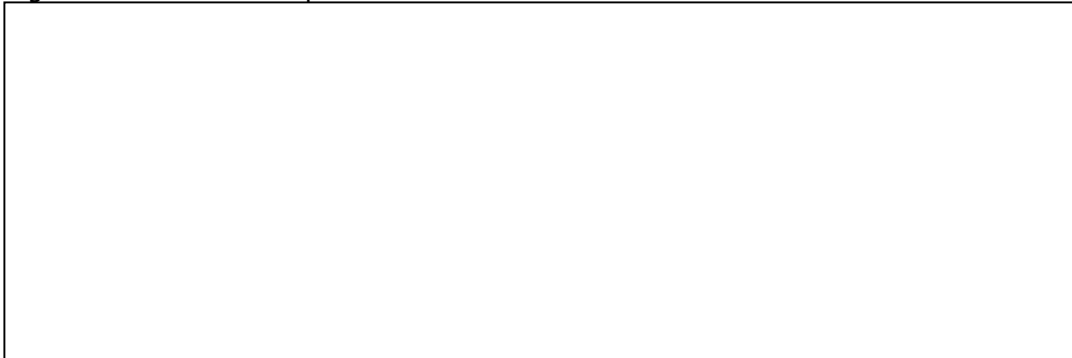
Council Member Reports

Pastor John Larson

- Pastor John Larson passed around the October 2019 master church calendar for review and update suggestions. He commented that there are many great elements of ministry reflected on the calendar.
- Due to an individual inquiring about ALC membership, a new member's class will be held again in the near future.

Treasurer – Allen Brookshire

- Allen provided a handout detailing the financial situation of the congregation. He verbally read the following highlights from his written report:



The following questions were posed to Allen by Council members:

Q: The report shows that each board's spending is under their budget, but as a whole the ALC finances show we are over spent?

A: It is true that the boards' spending is under budget, but congregational giving is down.



- The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

Columbarium Memorial Garden – Norm and Connie Fringer

- Norm reported that there has been no real activity. They are monitoring and keeping the Columbarium clean.
- There are two niches that will likely be sold in a couple of weeks.

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Parish Education – Sherry Hitztaler

- Sherry Hitztaler was unable to attend the meeting. Arvin presented to Council members a written Parish Education report from Sherry.
 - The content of the written report is as follows:
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*WNL - Began September 4. Youth Education classes, (3rd-12th grade), Adult Bible Class, Music groups, Nursery.

*Education Sunday - Church picnic, introduction of ALC Preschool Staff and HomeWord Groups, Sunday School for adults and children. Young adult Bible Studies continue on Thursdays.

* Linda Achziger - Reported that EVERY toy and item in the Nursery has been thoroughly cleaned and sanitized. Thank you, Linda and crew!

* The Board of Education will meet on September 25:

- to discuss and approve the updated salary schedule for the Extended Day Preschool,
- to discuss and approve the recently revised and updated ALC Abuse Awareness Policy and Procedures documents.

These issues will be presented to Church Council at the October meeting for approval.

Life Enrichment Series – Brian and Marion Wilson

- Marion said that they attended the *Adam's Road* concert at Peace Lutheran Church. They hope to explore having the group perform at Ascension in the future.

Trustees – Kelly Thom

- As Chuck Mielke was unable to attend the meeting, Trustee Kelly Thom reported on the issues.
 - A handout (as shown below) outlined the topic of discussion focused on the Property Insurance Policy renewal.
-

Insurance:

1. Statement: The Constitution empowers the Trustees to make decisions concerning insurance. Both Arvin and I think that insurance has become so complicated and involves much more than just the facilities that this procedure is outdated and needs to be changed.
2. Overview: We feel that there are a few items in our current policy that can be excluded. These are a. Additional coverage for the property of the Clergy. b. Leased equipment (We pay insurance as part of the lease.) and c. Terrorism (Arvin will explain.)
3. The deductible: Church Mutual wants to raise the deductible from \$5,000 to \$10,000. (One option would be to increase the deductible and establish a special dedicated account with \$10,000 for emergencies.)
4. Insurance is becoming a bigger and bigger issue because of the cost. The new 2019 policies will cost the Church about \$25,000. This cost is about the same as our gas and electric utilities.

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5. We have time to discuss this situation.

6. Important items:

- If someone rents a piece of equipment for the Church in their name – the contract should include the initials ALC.
 - All volunteers need to have a background check.
 - The building includes the organ and stain glass windows.
-

- Arvin Michel explained that he attended the meeting that was held with Pamela, Representative of Church Mutual Insurance. Therefore Arvin offered input to Council regarding the *terrorism* insurance coverage.
- Arvin stated the Federal Government has the final word on whether an attack is ruled an act of terrorism. If the Federal Government determines it is terrorism, the Government might offer funds to help with expenses. Then, Church Mutual could offer compensation above what the Government might pay to ALC. If the Federal Government does not rule an attack as *terrorism*, the Church Mutual Policy would pay nothing under the *terrorism* insurance coverage. Arvin believed it would be hard to justify ALC paying extra on the property insurance for the *Terrorism* coverage.
- A ***motion*** was made to exclude *terrorism* coverage from the Church Mutual Property & Liability Policy. There were a number of comments about the motion. The motion ***passed via voice vote*** (12 in favor and 2 opposed) (*Brian Wilson has stepped out of the room prior to the vote*). As Council Secretary, Tim McClaren will be asked to sign the necessary paperwork to remove the *Terrorism* coverage from the policy.
- Kelly Thom further explained the other details surrounding the policy.
- Basically, if the building was turned upside down, anything that would not fall out is coverage under this policy. Coverage does include things like organ and stained glass windows.



- It was estimated that our current asphalt roof over the sanctuary is about 15 years old. The other part of the building is a flat roof with a rubber membrane.
- Council asked if Trustees might confirm with Pamela at Church Mutual if the \$5,000 deductible is truly an option for ALC. Also, would something like roof replacement be full value or depreciated value. Kelly and Arvin indicated that they will research the answers for Council.
- Excluding the terrorism coverage and the raising of the deductible to \$10,000, the total premium is similar to last year. Arvin asked if Trustees could sign-off on the policy after further discussion with Church Mutual. If Trustees sign-off on the policy and Council later wants the policy changed, there is the option of changing the policy and prorating the premium.
- A Council member suggested drawing from the knowledge of congregation members who are also small business owners. These individuals might have suggestions on what items we might want to include or exclude from the policy.
- Another question concerned a note on the Trustee's handout that read: "*Certificate Holder: Littleton Public Schools (use of parking lot).*" Kelly indicated that they will ask about this item.
- It was noted that we also have an umbrella liability insurance policy that we pay about \$500.

Community Outreach – Isaac Hein

- Isaac indicated that the board has nothing to report.

Kelly Thom asked to be excused and left the meeting.

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Stewardship – Linda Achziger

- Linda Achziger indicated that she has been busy making copies of the “Time and Talent” form and getting ready for October 13, 2019, Stewardship Sunday. About 1 or 2 weeks in advance, the forms will either be put in church mailboxes or mailed to members.

Elders – Don Loptien

- Don Loptien explained that the budget is certainly a concern for the Elders. They have a lot of line items to consider and they will be meeting soon to assemble the budget. There are budget items that have to remain firm, like salaries and other things that can be flexible. In the past, finances have not been as much of a concern, but now we need to watch things closer.

Associate Membership for Ascension

- The next area of concern deals with the possibility of creating an Associate Membership status. We have some people who worship for 3-4 months and spend the balance of the year worshipping at another LCMS church. Currently, the ALC constitution and by-laws do not have a provision for Associate Memberships.
- Arvin Michel serves on the Rocky Mountain District Constitutional Review Committee. So, he passed around a document with some possible wording from Synod’s Constitution and Bylaws when including something like *Guest Members*, or *Associate Members*. See the handout detail below:

From Synod’s Constitution & Bylaws Guidelines:

Some congregations include a fourth category: “Guest Members.” 1989 Res. 5-19 encouraged such a category for congregations with many seasonal members, “which could include such basic rights and privileges as reception of the sacraments, pastoral care, congregational concern, use of their time, talents, and treasures in the service of the Lord, and attendance and participation in voters’ assemblies as advisory or associate members” (1989 Convention Proceedings, p. 140).

From a Rocky Mountain District Congregation’s Constitution & Bylaws (Slightly reworded):

Associate Communicant members are those who have membership in a Congregation elsewhere but who spend part of each year in the area of this Congregation and profess the same faith as those who are our regular Communicant Members and who are received at a regular meeting of the Voters’ Assembly.

Based upon rulings by the LCMS, Associate Members may not vote in Voters’ Meetings or on Boards or Committees but are eligible to participate in the regular activities of Communicant Members of this Congregation; this would include participation on Boards and Committees.

-
- Allen Brookshire noted that ALC pays an assessment to Synod based on Communicant membership. So, we might have to take that into consideration when designing an *Associate Membership* status.
 - Arvin suggested that we create a Constitution Committee to review our current Constitution and Bylaws. The documents have not been reviewed for a number of years. There seemed to be a general consensus on the formation of the Committee. Arvin would like to serve on the Constitution Committee. As no one from Council voiced interest in serving on the committee, it will be opened up to the congregation for input. Arvin will get the information in the *Happenings* newsletter.

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Ladies' Guild – Carol Stamp

- Carol Stamp offered the following handout:

General meeting: September 19, 6:00 p.m.

Program: Sue Hart from the Bethesda community.

This program is open to all. Sue will speak at 6:30.

Ingathering for Bethesda: cleaning supplies and/or personal hygiene items- (toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, etc.)

Circle Four will be collecting items for Christmas gift bags for our home bound members. They plan on assembling 30 bags. The Quilters will also supply lap robes for gifts.

Big Craft and Bake Sale - - November 24, between services.

- The general meeting is open to anyone to attend.
- Circle 4 will be asking for help.
- The Big Craft and Bake Sale on November 24th is also the same day as the Regular Voter's Meeting.

Director of Education – Kathy Johnson

- Kathy Johnson thanked those who helped with the education picnic on Sunday.
- Mothers Of Preschoolers (MOPS) and Wednesday Night Live activities are up and running with necessary staff in place.
- The "Creating a Thriving Family" Seminar is this weekend.

Director of Music Ministry- Rev Michael Zehnder

- As he was unable to attend the meeting, Rev Michael Zehnder provided a handout to Council as shown below (Pastor Larson read the handout to Council):
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FALL MUSIC SCHEDULE

All the Musical Groups are now back in full swing – Praise Teams, Choir, WNL Children's Choir and Handbells. Choir performs for the first time this coming Sunday and Bells on October 13th.

INSTRUMENTAL REPAIRS – ORGAN

Morel and Associates has almost completed their work on the organ. The Gedeckt flute stop has been re-installed and tuned on the Swell division and a toe stop for the Zimbelstern has been installed. They will return in a few weeks to

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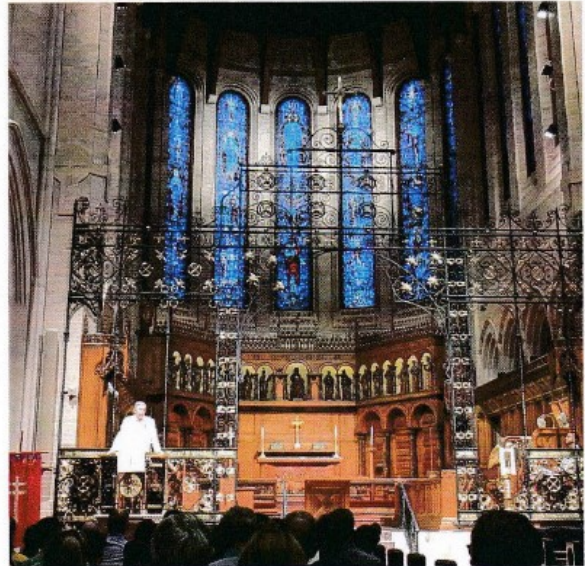
reconfigure the electronics of the organ to make the toe stop work.

INSTRUMENTAL REPAIRS – HANDBELLS

The bells are in the shop for refurbishment at Schulmereich and should be returned at the end of September. The Handbells began rehearsals last week using the Handchimes.

AGO NEWS

As newest board member of the American Guild of Organists I became the hospitality director and we had our first concert and reception last night at St. John's Episcopal Cathedral in downtown Denver.



ADULT EDUCATION HANDBOOK

The HomeWord Groups and Adult Education Handbook is completed and should be in your box. Weekly we have up to 17 opportunities for adults to study the Word.



Announcements

- The next Regular Voter's meeting is September 22, 2019.
- The next Council meeting is October 8, 2019 at 6:30pm.
- LCMS Foundation Resurrection Workshop is October 20, 2019.

Board of the Month

- Ladies Guild is the board of the month for September 2019.
- Parish Education is the board of the month for October 2019.
- Community Outreach is board of the month for November 2019
- Board of the Month duties include the following: devotion for Council meeting, coffee clean up on Sunday and *Ascension Happenings* newsletter insert each week.

Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 7:45PM.
- In closing, everyone said the Lord's Prayer.

----Respectfully Submitted by Tim McClaren, Secretary