

Ascension Lutheran Church – Council Meeting Minutes

Littleton, Colorado

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

In attendance:

Council Members: Linda Achziger, Norm Fringer, *Pastor John Larson*, Tim McClaren, Tom Munson, *Barbara Rutter*, Scott Luethy, *Mike Zehnder*, Connie Fringer, Anita Baresel, *Roger Koester*, Margo Pasha, Ian Kirschner

Excused: Sherry Hitztaler

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of Ascension Lutheran Church (ALC) by the President.

Opening Prayer:

Pastor John Larson offered an opening prayer.

Opening Devotion

Scott Luethy led the devotion. Where did Jesus travel? 1 John 1:7

Approval of Previous Minutes

February and March meeting minutes were corrected to show that Tim McClaren is authorized to transfer money for both LCEF accounts but is not authorized to sign checks. The minutes were approved as corrected.

VP

- No report

Treasurers Report

- Margo Pasha presented the treasurer's report and it was approved.

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- Appreciation to the many folks who worked so hard during the Lenten season and then for Holy Week. Even with all the limitations that we have much ministry to many people was accomplished. Thank you.
- We look forward to the time when “His Little Feet” will be with us on May 8-9. Mike Zehnder will have more information about this.
- Vacation Bible School will hold an in-person school on June 25-27. Work is underway to spread the word and gather workers for this ministry.
- The Council and the Voters need to speak about the reassignment of the PPP Loan.
- We should be considering an event to dedicate the Renovation of the West Wing.
- We are currently at approximately 75% of normal attendance due to COVID.
- Questions of me? Questions of the congregation?
 - Worship in the park is June 27. Could combine with dedication of the West Wing
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- **Director of Music Ministry – Michael Zehnder**
 - SOLO/ENSEMBLE MUSIC
 - We’ve had a number of solos or duets over the past few months during Lent and Holy Week. These have included a duet by Tom and Dawn Munson, a duet by Anita Baresel and Rachel Becker, and solos by Bri Fort, Rachel Becker and Michael Zehnder. There were also piano solos by Diana Gaide and Michael Zehnder.
 - AGAPE AND YOUTH PRAISE TEAMS
 - Our two praise teams continue to meet weekly on Wednesdays for rehearsal and leading worship on Sunday morning at the 10:30 service.
 - WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE
 - The older students of WNL put together an Easter Drama for two of our Easter Services. The students memorized their parts and were in a play called “Easter Morning,” which depicted a fictional enactment of some women experiencing the sorrow and excitement of Jesus’ death and resurrection. Props and costumes were used. Participating in the play were Nevaeh Cooper, Tenley Erling, Jenna Harvey-Kabelman, Ashlyn Lafferty and Anna Wishon. Directors for the play were Anita Baresel, Marilyn Larson and Michael Zehnder.
 - Organ Tuning and repair
 - We received our first organ tuning in over a year from our new service representative, Dwayne Short of Rocky Mountain Fine Tuning on March 18. This was done at a non-contract price of \$612.50. (FYI, Morel used to charge \$500.) Dwayne has indicated they will be writing up contracts for our church and others in June. At this time it is unclear whether that will be the going price per tuning or if it will be less under contract.
 - His Little Feet

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- A group of 18 international students who were orphaned or abandoned will be singing at all weekend services at Ascension on May 8-9. Many of the details for this special presentation (which includes backdrops, videos, singing, testimony and more) have already been handled. This is the third booking we have made for this group, the first two being cancelled because of Covid concerns. Normally this would fall under LES board. Since we do not currently have a chairperson for this we are still in need of some help, specifically a hot meal pre-concert on May 8 and a cold luncheon after services on May 9. If you can help or have ideas how to handle this, please see Pastor Larson or Mike Zehnder.
 - Video presentations in sanctuary
 - Recently we have had a number of requests for special PPT presentations in the sanctuary for funerals, Boy Scouts and the like. There are always many questions as to what equipment we have available, where it is located, what hookups are needed, special adaptors which may be necessary for various computer types to hook into our sound system, etc. To help clarify what is available, Durwin Schmitt has offered to write up the details. We've also decided to purchase any needed adaptors for the various computer types to hook up into our sound system to make this an easier process and more accessible for all.
- **Columbarium Memorial Garden**
 - Two internments and one inquiry for 2 slots
- **Board of Elders**
 - We have received several thank you letters from our Mission partners and projects.
 - The attendance for Holy Week was very good. (better than last year)
- **Ladies Guild**
 - No Report
- **Life Enrichment** – vacant
- **Social ministry**
 - All reports on Happenings
- **Stewardship**
 - Nothing to Report
- **Trustees**
 - **West Wing:**
 - Current work
 - Installing ceiling grids
 - Sheet rock finishing
 - Rough electrical work for lighting
 - Window/Asbestos Caulk/Lead-Based Paint Removal
 - Work will be completed the middle of this week
 - Complete column repairs

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- Fire alarm and security system
 - Occupancy plans have been submitted to South Metro Fire and Rescue
- SMFR has indicate ALC will need to get a review and approval from the City of Littleton for the proposed restricted capacities in the Narthex (pass through only) and fellowship hall (200).
- The alternative to restricted capacity is a voice annunciating system for an additional cost equal to about the existing system.
- **Sanctuary Roof:** The claims adjuster for Church Mutual has inspected the roof and make recommendations to Church Mutual. Church Mutual has ask for additional information and they were not pointing to any positive response. During the storm last week there was a new leak location on the north side near the back of the sanctuary. Ascension has a \$10,000 deductible for roof work. We continue to pursue this matter.
 - **Parking Lot Lights:** The parking lot lights are back on. They were off because construction workers had shut off the power. Two of the lights are on 24 hours a day because the photocell to control those two poles is mounted behind the temporary wall where it is always dark. The other pole is set on a timer which needs to be adjusted.
 - Waiting for date of completion from the contraction
- **Youth**
 - Since last meeting, we have had a youth bowling event. Had to postpone the lock-in for the Friday night winter storm that never was. Have about 10 youth at that event, including 4 junior high youth. Also since last meeting, the mission trip has been decided to be at LVR early June. This will be for 5 days and we will be doing some construction projects there. Hoping to get 10 kids and 2-3 adults for this trip. It is a close drive so the hope would be that some parents might be able to dedicate 2-3 days and potentially have a swap so it is easier to take a small amount of time off.

New Business

- Voter's Meeting will have update on West Wing
- PPP Loan was \$89,000 and spent on salaries to keep staff.
- Motion: To reimburse Pastor's discretionary account for \$2000 from the PPP loan funds, now forgiven, for money spent on video production during COVID. Approved
- Motion: Recommend to voters that we reimburse accounts during COVID with PPP funds, and move remaining funds into the Prior Years' Surplus account. These accounts include Music Ministry account and EDP accounts (less the amount received in the grant from the State of Colorado). Approved
- Motion: Pending approval of the motion to the voters, move \$10,000 from Prior Years' Surplus to Capital Needs and the rest into Project Peter. Approved

Announcements

- Next Voter's Meeting – April 25, 2021
- Next Council Meeting – May 11, 2021
- Board of the Month (May 2021) – Trustees

Board of the Month duties includes:

Devotions for Council Meeting, "Happenings" newsletter article each week.

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Adjournment

- At 8:07 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.
- Pastor led the prayer.

————— Respectfully Submitted by Barbara Rutter, Secretary