

Ascension Lutheran Church – Council Meeting Minutes

Littleton, Colorado

Tuesday, February 9, 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*,

Excused: Sherry Hitztaler, Carol Stamp, Margo Pasha

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 6:31 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

Review of Matthew by Columbarium

Approval of Previous Minutes

President asked for approval suggested adjustments to the Council meeting minutes of January 2021. Without correction, the *Council **approved** the meeting minutes.*

New Business

- Cake for Pastor Larson's birthday

VP

- Stephanie resigned after last council meeting and the role of Treasurer has been filled by Margo Pasha. Last voter's meeting approved this change.
- Durwin Schmitt to serve as assistant treasurer
- Loan with LCEF, Tim to be added to sign checks and access to online account.

Treasurers Report

- Council approved the treasurers report
- PPE to be transferred into main LCEF to earn interest.
- PPE loan for 2020 will have paperwork submitted to forgive the loan

Council Reports

- Pastor John Larson
 - RuthAnn Langness, in Deaconess training at Concordia University in Wisconsin has asked to have her internship this summer at Ascension. I have let her know that we would be happy to have her serve us in this work.
 - She will be involved in all areas of ministry under my supervision and involved with all the works that Ascension does.
 - She will fulfill 120 hrs of work within the congregation
 - No cost to congregation
 - No start date known yet
 - How to proceed with Coordinator for the Severe Weather Shelter Network

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- Bri Fort is stepping down, so one or more people are needed.
 - The replacement needs to be secured by the early part of the summer
 - We need to let SWSN know about our ability to serve as a host site is in question
 - There is paperwork on the job description
- VBS
 - Does the pandemic raise questions about the viability of holding a VBS?
 - Who will coordinate the effort? Neither Tricia McCulley or Anita Baresel were employed to cover this.
 - A significant number of the VBS staff from previous years are no longer involved in the ministries at Ascension
 - A decision is needed by March, as VBS is in the middle of June.
 - Thoughts or questions?
 - What about the conditions of COVID?
 - GROW is ready to go, more like streaming a video
- **Director of Music Ministry – Michael Zehnder**
 - SOLO/ENSEMBLE MUSIC
 - Since the choir and bells are not meeting during the pandemic, a number of soloists, duets, trios have been recruited to bless our service music. The next offerings take place during Lent and Holy Week.
 - 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
 - Because of numbers the “music” portion of Wednesday Night Live schedule has been revised during the winter and spring months to include art, bible history, music and drama. Thanks to leaders, who have stepped up in joining me to make these courses interesting for the 3rd -8th grade students: Anita Baresel, Kathleen Wucherpennig, Lilly Brinkman and Kathie Harvey. Confirmation Sunday this is year is May 16th. The Drama course of WNL will be working toward presenting an Easter Drama on Easter Sunday.
 - AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS
 - I continue to serve as a board member on the American Guild of Organists. Most of our events this season have been virtual.
- Director of Education
 - State to refund some of the lost preschool funding
 - Regan Swanson resigned from her post.
 - Committee has not meet for the last 2 months and nothing is scheduled
- **Columbarium Memorial Garden**
 - There was nothing to report

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- **Board of Elders**

- The Pastor had a request to return donation money from Jimmie and Sue Anzai, as they have decided to return to the Catholic Church. The Elders decided to return the \$1300.00 as a special case to leave the door open for them if they want to come back to Accession
- Mission Projects
 - Partners
 - Lutheran Family Services \$958
 - Lutheran High School \$7667
 - Rocky Mtn. District \$23338
 - CCCS \$7667
 - Together in Mission \$4313
 - BOLM \$4409
 - Lutherans for Life \$1917
 - Mission Experience \$4792
 - Renewal Church \$2300
 - Projects
 - Tuition Assistance Program \$1459
 - Concordia Center for the Family \$500
 - People of the Book Ministries \$500
 - Resurrection in the City \$500
 - Evergreen Lutheran (Detroit) \$500
 - Total \$60820
- During Ash Wednesday services, there will be no imposition of the Ashes.
- Palms will be available for Palm Sunday

- **Ladies Guild**

- No report

- **Life Enrichment** – vacant

- **Social ministry**

- Collected 478 cans of soup

- **Stewardship**

- Still on task for this year

- **Trustees**

- West Wing:**

- EDP: Has passed the most recent inspection in its temporary location.
- Demolition: The interior demolition was completed January 21.
- Asbestos: Testing of the caulk around the window and glazing of the windows has been completed. The caulk contains 5% to 7% asbestos which requires special abatement. The glazing does not contain significant asbestos. The paint on the window frames does contain lead which requires special disposal. Procuring bids for this work is in process.

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- Current Work: The rough framing for the new walls is in place. Rough electrical work is in place and awaits City inspection. Rough plumbing is in process. Once the inspections are completed the walls can be closed in with sheet rock.
- Contract Issues: Himmelman has taken a two-step process for processing changes on the project. Since both the RFC (Request for Change) and the OCO (Owner Change Order) are legally binding we will continue to have the Secretary sign both.
- Project Construction Budget: The Approved Project Budget of \$911,500 included a contingency of 118,900. Major unanticipated expenses are as indicated below:

#	Description	Source of Cost	Cost
1	Additional Permit Fees	Actual	\$13K
2	Flooring Abatement	Actual	\$52K
3	Window Abatement	Estimate	\$45K
4	Operable Windows	Change Order	\$10K
5	Miscellaneous		<u>\$2.5K</u>
	Total		\$122.5K

Previous Project Upper Limit: \$ 911,500

Revision #1: \$ 122,500

New Project Upper Limit: \$1,034,000

A detailed Project Cost Summary will be presented at the council meeting and the voters meeting. The new project upper limit does include \$46.5K of unallocated Dollars for other potential changes.

- **Sanctuary Roof:** ALC again experienced a leak during a recent storm near the front of the Sanctuary. We will have the roof inspected for a possible source.
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- **Youth**
 - Very different this year, still conducted fundraisers
 - Visited shut ins
 - Summer mission trip was canceled
 - This Friday night is a Murder Mystery get together
 - Social media presence to increase to be more accessible youth

Announcements

- Next Special Voter's Meeting – February 14, 2021
- Next Council Meeting – March 9, 2021
- Board of the Month (March 2021) – Ladies Guild

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Board of the Month duties includes:

Devotions for Council Meeting, “Happenings” newsletter article each week.

Adjournment

- At 7:56 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.
- The Council said the Lord’s Prayer together.

———— Respectfully Submitted by Barbara Rutter, Secretary