

# Ascension Lutheran Church – Council Meeting Minutes

Littleton, Colorado

*Tuesday, January 11, 2022*

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## In attendance:

**Council Members:** *Barbara Rutter*, Margo Pasha, Norm Fringer, Connie Fringer, Anita Baresel, Scott Luethy, *Pastor John Larson*, Tom Munson, *Mike Zehnder*, Terry Utecht

**Excused:** Ian Kirschner, Christa Kirschner, Chuck Mielke, Linda Achziger, Tim McClaren, Carol Stamp

## Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 6:31 p.m. in the Council of Ascension Lutheran Church (ALC) by the President.

## Opening Prayer:

The *Pastor John Larson* offered an opening prayer.

## Opening Devotion

Pastor John Larson led the devotion.

## Approval of Previous Minutes

November minutes were approved. December minutes were approved.

## President

- Annual report will be presented at the January voters meeting
- DCE search is still ongoing. Meeting the second candidate this Saturday. Hopefully will have a decision soon. May call a special meeting. May send out a letter to the congregation
- Technology audit is moving along, sent a survey to the staff
- Discussion on where the funds will come from

## VP

- None

## Treasurers Report

- Attached
- Discussion on the Ladies Guild new bank account
- Will present budget to the Voters
- The treasurer's report was approved.

## Staff Reports

- **Pastor John Larson**
  - Englewood Photo Club will meet on the second Tuesday in the fellowship hall
  - Thursday at 9 am the Bylaws and Constitution Committee will meet
  - In 2021, there were 543 baptized members, 492 of whom are confirmed. In comparison in 2020 there were 566 baptized members of whom 499 were confirmed. We lost 23 baptized members of which 7 were confirmed
  - In 2020 average attendance was 166; in 2021 the average was 192;

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- Consider using Thrivent Choice funds for the Disaster Relief Rocky Mountain Committee approximately \$2500 to \$3000
- **Director of Music Ministry – Michael Zehnder**
  - Attached
- **Columbarium Memorial Garden**
  - One double niche contact and will follow up this week.
- **Board of Elders**
  - Attached
- **Ladies Guild**
  - Attached
- **Social ministry**
  - Next meeting February 12
- **Stewardship**
  - No report
- **Trustees**
  - Attached
  - For next meeting, a vote on updating the office server with a maximum budget of \$2000
- **Youth**
  - None

## **New Business**

- None

## **Announcements**

- Next Voter's Meeting – January 23, 2022
- Next Council Meeting – February 8, 2022
- Board of the Month (February 2022) – Social Ministry

### Board of the Month duties includes:

Devotions for Council Meeting, "Happenings" newsletter article each week, coffee cleanup

## **Adjournment**

- At 7:31 p.m. the meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

———— Respectfully Submitted by Barbara Rutter, Secretary

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## ATTACHMENTS

### Director of Music Ministries

Report – February 2022, Michael J Zehnder

#### ASCENSION CHORALE AND GLORIA DEI RINGERS

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Members of these groups are busily working on Lent and Easter music. We have had the challenge of a number of Wednesdays cancelled for snow which hopefully will not happen again. (Like tomorrow? [LOL](#) Bells are working on their Handbell Festival Music (see below). The good news is that our Ascension Chorale has grown by a few new members, particularly in the soprano section. On Easter Nikki [Saiz](#) will be playing timpani and other percussion with choir, hymns and service music.

#### HANDBELL FESTIVAL

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As reported earlier Gloria Dei Handbell Ringers are going to participate in a Handbell Festival on Saturday, April 23 at the Littleton United Methodist Church. The latest information is that there is a concert at 3 p.m. and it is open for free to the public featuring music by our Gloria Dei Handbell Ringers, other participating groups and five group numbers.

#### CHOIR MUSIC CUBBIES

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We are still awaiting the construction of our choir music cubbies. John [Oldefest](#) had agreed to build a cubby system and has taken measurements in the music room closets. However, he has not been physically well for some time and perhaps some other arrangements may need to be made? (There will be between 40-45 cubbies large enough to hold folders, music and hymnals. These will measure about 11" wide, 4" tall and 12" deep.)

#### ORGAN TUNING

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I have asked Dwayne Short of Rocky Mountain Fine Tuning to get us on their tuning schedule before Easter.

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Elders report 1/10/2022

- 1: The mask mandate for Arapahoe County, at a minimum continues until the end of January. This may be extended depending on Hospital ER capacity.
- 2: A letter to Prospective Elders will go out this month.
- 3: The hunt for Communion Servers for the Sunday 10:30 service is still ongoing.

Scott Luethy

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Ascension Ladies Guild - - Report to Council - - January 2022

Circle Reports:

Altar Circle (Circle 1) served communion at 156 services last year for 8932 communicant members. Possible getting 2 new members.

Kitchen Circle (Circle 3) Served the Advent dinner on December 15, 2021, for 55 people.

Christian Service (Circle 4) put together 33 gift bags at Christmas for the homebound.

Quilters meet on Fridays. Will take orders for quilts if desired.

The following mission programs will share in the Bake and Craft Sale funds of over \$4000:

Lutheran High School; Lutheran Braille Workers; LCMS Chaplains; University Chapel, Boulder Campus; Orphan Grain Train, Ysleta Lutheran Mission; Messiah Lutheran Campus Ministry (GJ); Denver Society of Creation; Unity Lutheran Elementary School (Chicago); Lutheran Valley Retreat.

Carol Stamp

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Board of Trustees  
Report to Council  
January 11, 2022

1. Garbage Disposal: The garbage disposal attached to the sink at the commercial dishwasher is now operating properly. The new disposal needed a special adapter to attach it to the sink. Once the adapter was properly attached to the disposal we were able to complete the hook-up.
  2. Hot water heater in Old Boiler Room: This water heater developed a gas leak that was located by Excel. Pasterkamp Heating and Air Conditioning have repaired this gas leak properly. During this past week, this same water heater developed a water leak at the pressure control valve, which John Rolling has repaired. We hope that this takes care of our problems with this appliance for now.
  3. Alarm system: The alarm system has been a problem to manually arm and was not warning us when it was armed. ADT, our alarm service was able to fix this situation this past week. The system is now working properly.
  4. Office Computer Server: The office server has been in operation for over ten years. We have been researching the possibility of replacing the server with updated equipment and software. In addition, we now have a request from Dawn Munson to allow her to access the server remotely. The current estimate we have to update this system is in the \$1600+ range. This quote comes from Doug Butte at True Tower Group. We need to continue to research this situation and hopefully bring a request to Council soon.
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