

# Ascension Lutheran Church – Council Meeting Minutes

Littleton, Colorado

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

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## In attendance:

**Council Members:** Tom Munson, *Barbara Rutter*, Margo Pasha, Scott Luethy, Christa Kirschner, Anita Baresel, Linda Achziger, Terry Utecht, *Mike Zehnder*, Carol Stamp,  
**Excused:** *Pastor John Larson*, Ian Kirschner, Norm Fringer, Connie Fringer, Bob Stamp  
Tim McClaren, Joyce Lord,

## Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 6:28 p.m. in the Council of Ascension Lutheran Church (ALC) by the President.

## Opening Prayer:

The *Pastor* offered an opening prayer.

## Opening Devotion

Terry Luethy read from Portals of Prayer.

## Approval of Previous Minutes

Tabling minutes from February

## President

- None
- Lenten suppers are coming up

## VP

- None

## Treasurers Report

- Due to technical issues, no treasurers report.
- Margo gave some verbal updates.

## Staff Reports

- **Director of Music Ministry – Michael Zehnder**
  - Attached
- **Pastor John Larson**
  - Holding adult instruction class this weekend.
  - Kathy Johnson is volunteering with Lutheran Family Services to help with the Gala and in charge of finding sponsors for the tables. Each table is \$1000.
  - Motion: Pay a \$1000 from Thrivent Choice Dollars to Lutheran Family Services to sponsor a table at the Gala.
    - Passed unanimously
- **Director of Education and Youth**
  - Has been here for 2 weeks
  - Having conversations with Staff
  - Working on survey to send to the leaders

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- **Columbarium Memorial Garden**
  - Transferred ashes
  - Do we want to increase niche prices from \$2050 to between \$2300 to \$3000?
  - Caulking needs to be fixed, as it is breaking.
- **Community Outreach and Communication**
  - None
- **Board of Elders**
  - More services coming up
  - No Easter breakfast as not enough hands
- **Ladies Guild**
  - Attached
  - Carol is stepping down in May.
- **Parish Education**
  - Youth is attached.
  - Recent family night.
  - Cancel Valentine's Day Night due to weather
  - Four families at the Ash Wednesday family night
  - Young Adult changed from every other Thursday to one Friday a month
  - Meeting to discuss National Youth Gathering
- **Social ministry**
  - Attached
- **Stewardship**
  - None
- **Trustees**
  - Attached
  - Motion: Approval for up to \$1600 to be used to prepay for lawn treatment done by Greenlawn.
    - Passed unanimously
- **Installation of Officers**

## **New Business**

- None

## **Announcements**

- Next Voter's Meeting – April 24, 2022
- Next Council Meeting – April 12, 2022
- Board of the Month (April 2022) – Youth

### Board of the Month duties includes:

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

## **Adjournment**

- At 7:43 p.m. the meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

———— Respectfully Submitted by Barbara Rutter, Secretary

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## HANDOUTS

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

Circle Reports:

Altar Circle (Circle I): Welcomes Tanya Schmidt

Library Circle (Circle II): Mary Hert returns to resume duties as Library Chair, archivist, and Greeting Cards distributor.

Kitchen Circle (Circle III): Served the dinner on Ash Wednesday March 2, 2022, for 40 people.

Christian Service (Circle IV): Hosting Bingo for Mites on Saturday April 2, 2022

Hospitality (Circle V): Nothing to Report Currently

Quilters have 80 lap robes finished; will set aside 35 for Christmas bags for the homebound. Remainder will go to Orphan Grain Train.

Next General meeting: April 2, 1:00 pm. Bingo for Mites. Mission projects will be reviewed. Snacks and prizes.

By-laws are due to be reviewed and revised.

Jars from Bake Sale will be returned to Maureen James.

Final meeting for the year - - May 26. Speaker: Wanita Wood from *Ad Crucem* store - 6:00 pm, salad supper and dessert.

Carol Stamp

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Youth Ministry/Education Report – 3/8/22

Not much to report this month. Biggest news is Stephanie as our new DCE. As a board, both the Education board and Youth board need to sync up with Stephanie to discuss expectations of her and of the boards and how we can support her. She is showing up with some exciting ideas and will need our support as volunteers. Christa and I will schedule a sit-down meeting with Stephanie to go over plans and how we can best support the children and youth of Ascension.

As far as recent education plans have gone, there was a recent family night that went as planned after getting postponed a few times. A decent attendance as kids did crafts to prep for Lent and get excited about Easter.

Young adult ministry has recently revised their gatherings and are doing in-home bible studies on Friday nights. Friday night has proven to be a decent night for scheduling as attendance has grown and are seeing many new faces.

As for the youth, Christa, Jenna, Stephanie and Pastor are scheduled to have a meeting tomorrow to go over action plans for the national youth gathering this summer.

Thanks,

Ian & Christa

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Social Ministry Report

Feb. 2022

Attended by Pastor Larson, Joyce Lord, Kathleen Wucherpennig, Lorraine Winckler, Jude Donovan, Dawn Munson, Anita Baresel

Devotions opened the meeting with Anita Baresel.

Pastor indicated that there is a new style of Severe Weather Shelter with our main organizers being Charmaine Rohde and Ann Kaneko. People drop off the shelf stable food at the Spirit of Hope, and from there it is distributed to motels where homeless are being sheltered. The Soup Drive continues with many contributions. They will pick up our donations on Monday or Tuesday next week.

Dawn was wondering about the 24# frozen turkey that we would like to donate to an appropriate site. The Food Co-op was discussed. Dawn also said that the blood drives seem to continue to be "on hold" as she has not heard from them. Resources/personnel may not be available?

A question was raised about the refugees that could be coming to Colorado. Pastor indicated that Dave Runyon is head of "City Unite" which has means to ship "city units" to these people, and that housing will include Air B&B to be rented for 6-12 months with a rent stipend for the Owners...Dawn indicated she would make a brochure to let congregational members know. Anita will check on Lutheran Family Services website, also.

Jude indicated that Ascension's Foundation has contributed \$500.00 to the prison ministry. The prisons opened briefly and then re-closed with the newest Covid variant. The county jails are not open to any visitation, also. On January 15th, Marilyn Loptein and Jude went to the Right to Life demonstration. She encourages prayers for the Roe vs. Wade case before the Supreme Court.

2022 Faith Book is being published with articles by members, once again. Jude hope that the Articles can be in by March 10th. She asked members of Social ministry to contribute, and to pray for people to contribute in 450 words of how God leads us.

Lorraine indicated that the Stephen Ministry has 4 caregivers and 3 receivers with 2 requests for male caregivers. Men are WELCOME! There is a training session of 9 weeks beginning in September. It will meet every Thursday for 2 hours for a total of 50 hours time. This committee Will assist with sign up.

Joyce Lord, Dennis Lord, Pastor John, Kathleen and Anita are part of the Outreach Committee. The hope is that we can meet with Stephanie Roettjer to discuss means and ways To move forward.

Dawn indicated that a new congregation photo directory is going to be handled by Bettlinger Photography. The congregation will be signing up for photos June 3, 4, 6th and 11th. They are located in Englewood.

Final ideas that were shared: Kathleen indicated that we could use another bulletin board for new members? Also, we could get flyers to put into the neighborhood and have a fellowship booth in the narthex. Pastor thought door clings would be helpful for basic information on the doors to outside.

We will be responsible for the Lenten meal on March 16th from 5:30-6:30 PM. Irish food was Encouraged and Anita will coordinate.

Next meeting if May 14th @ 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Baresel

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## TRUSTEE REPORT

Report to Council  
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1. Agreement with Greenlawn: Greenlawn will give us a \$147 discount if we pay for the lawn treatment ahead of time. They plan to provide us with 5 applications of fertilizer and two Revive treatments for \$1323. This is the procedure we have followed for years. There will be one extra charge for aeration not included in this plan. **Please approve this one time payment of \$1323.**
2. Office Computer Server: After several months of discussion we have decided to not replace the server but to initiate a “cloud” application. This type of storage will allow us to access Church files off site and let the staff work from home. It will also give us additional security and protect us from any on site issues that might affect a server such as lightning strikes and power outages. The total cost to convert all our staff units to this new system is \$850. True Tower System/ Doug Butte has provided us support for over two years and has proven to be very effective and very affordable. There will be some annual fees. The best we can determine at this time that these fees will be less than \$100 per year. Note: The cost of installing a new server is about \$1700.
3. West Wing Update: We have hot/warm water in both the sinks and all faucets in the new girls restroom. Also, we have an issue with the threshold at the northwest parking lot entrance. We have contacted Himmelman and they have agreed to send someone over to look at these problems.
4. East or new boiler room: We are monitoring the water level in the pressure tank that supplies water to the boiler. It appears that more water is being added to the tank slowly. This is not supposed to happen. We will continue to watch that tank.
5. Current part-time replacement staff: We are pleased with Rachel Becker, Larry Engle of Larlees Lawn Service and Jim Mullane as they work to keep Ascension clean, the sidewalks shoveled and the building maintained.
6. Backflow Testing: Two of our three backflow devices will be tested March 9. Denver Water requires this testing. The other device is the sprinkler anti-siphon valve and we will test it later after turning on the outside water. These tests cost \$75 per test.
7. Trustee Board: **We invite you to the Potato Dinner this Wednesday from 5:30 to 6:30.**