

# Ascension Lutheran Church – Council Meeting Minutes

Littleton, Colorado

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

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## In attendance:

**Council Members:** Tom Munson, *Barbara Rutter*, Margo Pasha, Scott Luethy, Linda Achziger, Terry Utecht, Carol Stamp, *Pastor John Larson*, Norm Fringer, Connie Fringer, Ian Kirschner

**Excused:** Tim McClaren, Christa Kirschner, Anita Baresel, *Mike Zehnder*,

**Guest:** Kelly Lafferty

## Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 6:29 p.m. in the Council of Ascension Lutheran Church (ALC) by the President.

## Opening Prayer:

The *Pastor* offered an opening prayer.

## Opening Devotion

Ian Kirschner read an excerpt of Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

## Approval of Previous Minutes

Minutes from February and March were approved.

## Special order

- Expansion ideas by Kelly Lafferty is attached
- Two barriers
  - Does not accept CCAP (Child Care Assistance Program)
  - Do not have a wider variety of days
- Motion: Transition to Option 1 of the EDP as proposed by Kelly in her writeup.
  - Approved unanimously

## President

- None
- Looking at nominations for the fall.

## VP

- None

## Treasurers Report

- Attached
- February treasurers report passed unanimously.
- March treasurers report passed unanimously.
- Margo will submit a payment to reduce the loan principal at the end of every quarter.
- The Finance Committee is working on a debit card policy.

## Staff Reports

- **Director of Music Ministry – Michael Zehnder**

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- Attached
- **Pastor John Larson**
  - Proposal from the Elders starting on June 5 to September 4 one service on Saturday at 5 pm and Sunday at 9 am
  - Planning meeting in the summer possibly on June 18
  - We helped pay for Pastor Meissner's children to attend St. John's school
    - Motion: Give \$1500 from Thrivent Choice dollars to St. John's Lutheran School on behalf of Pastor Meissner to assist with tuition for his children.
    - Passed unanimously
- **Director of Education and Youth**
  - Attached
- **Columbarium Memorial Garden**
  - Attached
  - Motion: Increase the cost of the companion niche and single niche by \$250 each effective July 1.
    - Passed unanimously
- **Community Outreach and Communication**
  - None
- **Board of Elders**
  - Attached
- **Ladies Guild**
  - Attached
- **Parish Education**
  - Youth is attached.
- **Social ministry**
  - None
- **Stewardship**
  - None
- **Trustees**
  - Attached
- **Director of Christian Education**
  - Submitted a written report

## New Business

- None

## Announcements

- Next Voter's Meeting – April 24, 2022
- Next Council Meeting – May 10, 2022
- Board of the Month (April 2022) – Columbarium

### Board of the Month duties includes:

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

## Adjournment

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- At 8:18 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 Ministry

#### ASCENSION CHORALE AND GLORIA DEI RINGERS

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Choir and Bells took a break after Easter because of the Covid outbreak. Plans were to reconvene and meet one last time for rehearsal and performance this week and next. However, in light of Pastor's Accident and extra details I decided to end the season once again and reconvene in the Fall.

#### HANDBELL FESTIVAL

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The Gloria Dei Handbell Ringers were not able to fully participate in a day long conference and concert on the Saturday following Easter, April 23 because of a Covid outbreak. However, five from Ascension (including 2 guests) were able to attend and we filled in slots in other handbell groups who had similar shortages. As it turned out the clinician, also was down for Covid, so all we local directors, including me, directed and rehearsed the concert pieces.

#### MICHAEL BURKHARDT HYMN FESTIVAL

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We have confirmation by Michael Burkhardt for a hymn festival in the fall. Michael is an internationally known composer and concert organist. The following dates are for your calendar.

Thursday, September 29 @ 7:00 - 8:30 pm - FINAL REHEARSAL FOR CONCERT WITH PROF. BURKHARDT

**Friday, September 30 7 or 7:30 p.m. HYMN FESTIVAL WITH MICHAEL BURKHARDT (With Bells and Choir); Sponsored by the American Guild of Organists and Ascension**

Saturday, November 1 9:00 am to 11:30 am - Hymn Playing workshop (for interested organists only)

#### HELP DURING PASTOR'S RECOVERY

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We still need to work out some details regarding Pastor's adult class and confirmation on Wednesdays. Perhaps we can do this yet tonight.

Elders have asked me to lead weekend worship and tape the online worship until other arrangements might be made.

Pastor Ginkel has offered and has begun teaching the adult class on Sunday Mornings called "The Story of Angels." He has also offered to meet with Elders to train in making a shut-in or hospital call.

Elders decided to move the Summer Schedule of just one service to begin May 15. Dawn has changed the signboard and will change the website and phone message. I will put the new schedule onto Facebook.

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## Director of Christian Education's Council Report

May 10th, 2022

- 1) Sunday School
  - Mother's Day – decorated flowerpots and planted flowers
  - Special recognition for education volunteers on May 15<sup>th</sup>, will provide cake after the service, gift for the Reimnitz's for their years of service
- 2) Easter Egg Hunt
  - Wonderful turn-out by families – around 55 children on the sign-in sheet (have also gathered their contact information)
  - Many awesome volunteers helped make this event a success!
- 3) Vacation Bible School
  - Online registration has been set up
  - Will have a table in the narthex for volunteer and participant sign-up
  - Outdoor banner will be hung on the outside of the church by this weekend
- 4) Youth
  - Lunch and Escape Room is planned for May 15<sup>th</sup>, 7 high school youth have signed up
  - Working on registration for the LVR trip in July, will hopefully have about 10-12 youth attending (mixed group – middle school/high school)
  - Seen a small but steady growth in youth Sunday school from 1 youth to 4 youth in the last month
- 5) Survey
  - Will share the results of the survey before the end of the summer and also the strategy moving forward

Respectfully submitted, Stephanie Roettjer

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Elders report 04/10/2022

- 1: Discussions about only having two Services during the summer. One Saturday at 4:00, and one on Sunday (time to be determined) followed by Coffee under the trees, and a bible study. Pastor will study this proposal.
- 2: Jim Wert, was congratulated as an Elder during the March Elders meeting.
- 3: Jews for Jesus presented a program on Saturday April 9<sup>th</sup>, very informative and very well attended.
- 4: Michael Zehnder will be preaching Good Friday.
- 5: The Elders would like to thank, Joyce Lord, Dawn Munson, Stephanie ~~Roettjer~~, Kathy ~~Wucherpennig~~, and Anita Baresel for organizing the continental breakfast for Easter.

Scott ~~Luethy~~

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## Ladies Guild

The Ladies Guild met for a fun and fellowship afternoon, playing bingo for Mites. During the games, brief descriptions were read about all the District projects which have all been paid in full. The coins collected totaled \$129.25. We continue to add to that with collections picked up in the boxes at the end of the pews, as well as donations in the Treasurer's box. Ascension is very generous! The May meeting will be a salad supper and a special speaker on May 26, 6:00 pm. We will host Coffee Under Trees on June 5. Planning Day on June 25.

Carol Stamp

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Board of Trustees  
Report to Council  
April 12, 2022

1. Office Computer Server: True Tower Group/ Doug Butte has arranged to implement the move of our data files to the Cloud and we will archive our server. The plan includes the necessary assignment of a new domain named **alc-online.info**. This domain will permit all staff to have an Ascension email addresses and give them access to the Cloud storage. **However**, This will also change the Church's Main email address to [office@alc-online.info](mailto:office@alc-online.info). This change will take awhile to implement from our existing AOL address. The staff is scheduled to receive training for this change on Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup>.

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2. Current part-time replacement staff update: We are sad to announce that Rachel Becker cannot continue to serve in her duties as Custodian. She will continue working for a few more months while we search for an alternative person/ or company.
  3. Surveillance Camera: We have had problems trying to connect the security cameras (3) to our office monitor. We recently discovered that the control box now has a problem. MR Solutions has the box and is trying to diagnose the problem.
  4. Trustees Meeting: At the last Trustees meeting the Trustees developed several plans for the facility:
    - a. Bell Tower: John Rolling and Dustin Olsen volunteered to physically examine the Bell Tower and make recommendations to the Trustees concerning various repairs and possible upgrades.
    - b. Kitchen: Roger Koester Volunteered to talk to various members (including ladies Guild) and gather recommendations for repairs and or upgrades that are needed for the Kitchen.
    - c. Lawn: Chuck Mielke volunteered to survey the lawn area and possibly develop a plan for some xeriscaping in areas where the sprinkler system is inadequate.
    - d. Parking Lot Resurface: Roger Koester Volunteered to investigate the cost of resurfacing the parking Lot and restriping the parking lot. This is a project that we could budget for in 2023 or 2024.
  5. Ash Trees: The ash trees have been treated with the proper insecticide to prevent infestation of the Emerald Ash Borer. We are hoping that this annual treatment will let the trees prosper for years.
  6. Elevator Contract: The elevator contract was resolved. After consideration, it was decided to continue our contract with TK Elevator. Through the efforts of Roger Koester, we were able to reduce the quarterly fee for the first year to \$2400 per year from \$3200. However, this fee will increase yearly at least 5% per year. Elevators are expensive!
- **Director of Christian Education**
    - Submitted a written report