

Ascension Lutheran Church – Council Meeting Minutes

Littleton, Colorado

Tuesday, September 13, 2022

In attendance:

Council Members: Tom Munson, *Barbara Rutter*, Margo Pasha, Linda Achziger, *Pastor John Larson*, Anita Baresel, Scott Luethy, Terry Utecht, Christa Kirschner

Excused: Ian Kirschner, Tim McClaren, Norm Fringer, Connie Fringer, Joyce Lord, Stephanie Roettjer, *Mike Zehnder*

Call to Order:

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

Opening Prayer:

The *Pastor John Larson* offered an opening prayer.

Opening Devotion

Christa Kirschner read the devotion.

Approval of Previous Minutes

August regular meeting minutes were approved.

President

- We had two planning meetings last month and presented a review of the meeting.
 - How might we be the church in this community?
 - How might we attract younger members and involve the youth?
 - Mike helped with a demographic study
 - Within a mile, average age is 40 with some college education
 - Approximately 1/3 of families is single parent
 - Focus on communication both internally and externally
 - Board of the month
 - Think of boards as a team
 - Board for congregational life
- Church picnic – thank you to all who helped and setup board tables

VP

- No report

Treasurers Report

- Attached
- August treasurers report passed unanimously.

Staff Reports

- **Pastor John Larson**
 - How to pay for some new Christmas trees
 - Current trees are over 20 years old
 - 9 ft. Christmas trees ordered for \$2353.90
 - Motion: Take \$2105 from Kevin Mills memorial fund to pay for trees.
The remaining the amount to come from Thrivent dollars.

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- Passed unanimously
- **Director of Music Ministry – Michael Zehnder**
 - Attached
- **Director of Education and Youth**
 - Attached

Board Report

- **Columbarium Memorial Garden**
 - None
- **Community Outreach and Communication**
 - None
- **Board of Elders**
 - Having no Acolytes for now, we will be using disposable Communion Cups until further notice.
 - The Elders have approved Bi Bly to purchase new Christmas trees for the Sanctuary.
 - Work has begun on next year's budget including salaries for Staff
 - Arvin M. and Don L. have agreed to meet with Pastor and Michael to discuss, for a lack of a better word "life" plans now and future thoughts?
- **Ladies Guild**
 - Attached
- **Parish Education**
 - Attached
- **Social ministry**
 - Attached
 - Meeting on August 13th at 9 am.
- **Stewardship**
 - Attached
- **Trustees**
 - Attached
 - Motion: Authorize Artistic Tree Care of Englewood to Trim the five damaged Ash Trees in the front yard for no more than \$3000.00. Funds to come from the maintenance budget.
 - Passed unanimously
- **Youth**
 - Attached

New Business

- None

Announcements

- Next Voter's Meeting – September 25, 2022
- Next Council Meeting – October 11, 2022
- Board of the Month (September 2022) – Stewardship

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Board of the Month duties includes:

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

Adjournment

- At 7:52 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 – August 2022, Michael J Zehnder

CUBBIES ARE IN

Terry ordered and installed the choir music cubbies. We purchased some additional folders to fit the smaller size.

FALL START UP

All the groups are meeting again and schedules for choir and bells are completed for the first half of the season through January

MICHAEL BURKHARDT HYMN FESTIVAL

Thursday, September 29 @ 7:00 – 8:30 pm – FINAL REHEARSAL FOR CONCERT WITH PROF. BURKHARDT.
Child Care Included

Friday, September 30 7 or 7:30 p.m. HYMN FESTIVAL WITH MICHAEL BURKHARDT (With Bells, Brass and Choir); Sponsored by the American Guild of Organists and Ascension, Child Care Provided. The AGO will do refreshments. There will be a music swap table for organists.

I have hired professional brass from Denver University. Nikki Saiz is our timpanist. Choir has begun practicing the music.

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

Programs for the concert are being prepared and will be printed here.

The Brian and Marion Wilson HAVE agreed to be the Life Enrichment hosts for this festival. They will handle posters, offerings and refreshment tables.

Advertisements:

- Dawn has placed a opening ad on our website
- Ed Geisler has designed and ordered an outdoor banner that will be ready this week.
- The Wilsons have designed a poster for inside the church, upstairs and downstairs.
- We emailed the secretaries of all the local Lutheran Churches with bulletin announcements.
- A mailing is going out to all the non-Lutheran local churches with bulletin blurbs.
- An article and bulletin announcement has gone out the AGO mailing list.

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- An article has gone into the newsletter of the AGO and is on its website.
- An article and bulletin announcements has been sent to the leader of the Lutheran Chorale for distribution
- Pastor is going to announce the concert on our outdoor sign.

ORGAN TUNING

In preparation for the above concert our organ will be tuned on September 20.

DRUMMER

Our Youth Band Drummer Nikki has accepted a full-time position in another church. I have contracted Eli Patchen to be our youth drummer on the 1st and 3rd Sundays. Eli Faulk is considering being the youth band drummer starting in November.

Education Report Sept. 13

Sunday school started on Sunday with a pretty good turnout. We are excited to have some families back that we haven't seen in a while. There is no Wednesday Night Live for younger kids again this year. However, we plan on offering family nights once a quarter.

Trunk or treat is scheduled for October 29th from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. we have seven people signed up to decorate trunks and our shooting for 10 at least.

Preschool had started up for the year. We have two new staff members, working as assistants. We have 27 families sending their child(ren) to the EDP.

Young adult Sunday Bible study started up again. This Friday will be our monthly Friday Bible study.

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Elders report 09/13/2022

- 1: Having no Acolytes for now, we will be using disposable Communion Cups until further notice.
- 2: The Elders have approved Bri Bly to purchase new Christmas trees for the Sanctuary.
- 3: Work has begun on next year's budget including salaries for Staff
- 4: Arvin M. and Don L. have agreed to meet with Pastor and Michael to discuss, for a lack of a better word "Life" plans now and future thoughts?

Scott Luethy

Ascension Lutheran Ladies Guild

Report to Council – September 13, 2022

Ladies Guild held their first board meeting since May 2022, we discussed not having a full slate of officers – we currently do not have a VP nor a Circle Chair for our Christian Service Circle.

Ladies Guild is preparing for our General Meeting on Thursday September 22, 2022, hosting our new Rocky Mountain District President Shelly Stewart.

Ladies Guild will be serving lunch at the Voter's meeting on Sunday September 25, 2022.

We are preparing for the Craft and Bake sale on Sunday November 20, 2022. Blurbs have been put in the Happenings; posters will be put up in October. We have received the \$1,000 from Thrivent Funds.

It was also mentioned that the Ladies Guild information out on our website has not been updated since 2017 – 2018. Whom do we need to reach out to regarding getting things updated?

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Social Ministry Report

August, 2022

Attended by Pastor John Larson, Jude Donovan, Anita Baresel and Dawn Munson

Excused members: Kathleen Wucherpfennig, Lorraine Winckler, Joyce Lord

Devotions began meeting with Anita.

(This meeting was originally scheduled for May 14th, but was postponed due to Pastor John's accident. The agenda was from previous meeting....)

Life Enrichment ministry is being assisted by Marion and Brian Wilson for The music workshop that Mike Zehnder has arranged for last weekend of September.

Pastor John indicated that the Interfaith Community Service and Food Drive no longer has barrels for contributions at churches. There will be a Tuna Drive on October 5th and the following Sundays. Dawn will publicize in the Happenings, and assist with the collection.

Dawn reported that the congregation photo directory has been successful with Bettinger. (Sittings for pictures will be open until Aug. 31st.) Over 100 people are in this coming directory.

The Outreach committee has met with Joyce and Dennis Lord and there is a congregational follow-up meeting that is addressing the outreach to the community and especially younger families.

Stephen Ministry has a training session in September. Lorraine Winckler has the details....It is planned to meet every Thursday for 2 hours until 50 hours of training are done.

Jude Donovan reported that the In-Prison Bible studies reopened March 22nd, with Ken Jarrell as Teaching Director, his wife, Karyn, and Jude. This new class has very solid, sincere, and good men. Douglas County continues to be closed to volunteers due to Covid outbreaks.

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Lutherans for Life board meeting was on May 19th with Pres. Carol Thompson of Mt. Zion Lutheran. With limited funds, Jude has requested the ALC foundation for a donation, but was declined. The National NFL has guided our response to Supreme Court Roe vs. Wade decision in thankfulness, compassion, and welcome to all those in need.

Angel Tree will have the annual collection for dependents of those in prison on September 24th-25th after worship. Pastor will announce and it will be in Happennings, plus an ALC Foundation request for \$500, which was the amount previously given.

Dawn indicated that the Diaper Ministry for Love, In the Name of Christ was posted this spring. There is a continued need for diapers, wipes. She And Anita met with Sean Ray who is the community church coordinator. She also indicated that Vitalant continues to have staffing shortage. They did not come in June.
Flu shots at being scheduled for October.

Pastor John will meet with Dana Niederbrach to begin the Christmas family gift giving. There is also a North Littleton Promise Fiesta in October and Maureen Shannon (?) wants us to host a table. We have \$300 in budget for this. The fiesta will be at Mission Hills Church. Anita moved the motion and Jude seconded it.

Jude also reported on what a Community Bible Study would entail. These Areas were indicated:

- * Developed prayer groups to raise up leaders
- *Minimum of 60 people to begin
- *Training for associate teachers
- *Children's program
- *Core groups of 15 participants
- *12 page lessons (6 pages presentation & 6 pages discussion)
- \$35 per person cost for supplies
- *20 Minutes of teaching at end of sessions
- *No advertising

CBS needs to be contacted by the church

She said there are currently 18-20 class of CBS in metro Denver area.

Pastor John and group closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Board of Trustees
Report to Council
September 13, 2022

- 1.0 Toilet in Boys Restroom: The standard toilet has another very small leak. We are again notifying Himmelman Construction. We are also repairing a toilet issue in the Women's restroom.

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- 2.0 Cleaning: Accurate Janitorial Service has been cleaning the Church three times a week since late June. They clean on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday evenings. We are not planning on hiring a custodian at this time.
- 3.0 Church Sign: The Trustees have agreed to investigate the placement of a new sign at the corner of Windermere and Caley. We are planning a meeting to discuss this project on Saturday, September 17 at 9am..
- 4.0 Tree Trimming **Motion: Authorize Artistic Tree Care of Englewood to Trim the five damaged Ash Trees in the front yard for no more than \$3000.00.** Their bid was \$2600.00 from 6/21/22 and we finally were able to get a second bid recently. This is the low bid.

2023 PLEDGE FOR GIFTING ONE'S TALENTS



*The Opportunities to SERVE the LORD and
Ascension Lutheran Church are unlimited!*
*If you see something of interest below in which you would like to
VOLUNTEER for or bless others with your GOD GIVEN TALENT
Please check it and return this form with your financial support estimate
on October 15 and October 16, 2022*



Name: _____	Telephone Number: _____
Church Boards/Teams	Music and Worship
____ Church Officers (President, Vice President,	____ Bell Choir (Adult & Youth)
____ Treasurer, Secretary)	____ Choirs (Adult/Children)
____ Columbarium Memorial Garden (Up for Election this year)	____ Instrumentalist (type) _____
____ Community Outreach/Communication	____ Music Library/Database
____ Elders (Up for Election this year)	____ Praise Worship Teams (Adult/Youth)
____ Finance Board	____ Soloist
____ Financial Secretary	____ Audio/Visual Tech
____ Foundation	____ Communion Server (Late Service)
____ Ladies Guild (Lutheran Women's Missionary League)	____ Communion Server (Saturday Service)
____ Circle I (Altar)	____ Lectors - Early Service
____ Circle II (Library)	____ Lectors - Late Service
____ Circle III (Kitchen)	____ Lectors - Saturday Service
____ Circle IV (Christian Services)	____ Ushers - Early Service
____ Circle V (Hospitality)	____ Ushers - Late Service
____ Life Enrichment	____ Ushers - Saturday Service
____ Nominating Committee	Groups
____ Parish Education	____ Banner Committee
____ Social Ministry (Up for Election this year)	____ Pastor Larson's Bible Study - Sunday
____ Stewardship	____ Pastor Larson's Bible Study - Wednesday
____ Trustees (Building/Maintenance)	____ Pastor Ginkel's Bible Study - Wednesday
____ Youth (Up for Election this year)	____ Crafters/Hobbies
____ Youth Group	____ Funeral Reception Committee
Child Care	____ HomeWord (Small Group Bible Study)
____ Nursery Assistants	____ Kitchen Committee
Christian Education	____ Quilter's
____ Adult Bible Study Teachers	____ Stephen Ministry
____ HomeWord Small Group Bible Study Leaders	____ Volunteer Coordinator
____ Pre-confirmation and Confirmation Teachers and Assistants	____ Women's Bible Study
____ Substitute Teachers	Possible New Groups
____ Sunday School Teachers and Assistants	____ Divorce Care
____ Vacation Bible School Teachers and Assistants	____ Grief Share
Missions	Office Help
____ Connections Through Memory Loss	____ Special Mailing
____ Creation Society	____ Counters of Offerings
____ Love INC	____ General Office Help
____ Lutherans for Life (ALC's Life Team/LFL Denver)	
____ Prison Ministry Support	
____ Severe Weather Shelter Network	

*Like good stewards of the manifold
grace of God, serve one another
with whatever gift each of you have received*

1 Peter 4:10

How Might you consider contributing to the Church's mission? _____

Thoughts/Suggestions: _____

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Youth Ministry Report – 9/1/22

Stephanie and I met right after church today on 8/28/22 to discuss current plans for the youth this year. It was a very productive discussion and a few items were brought up.

Stephanie compiled a list of potential church members who might be helpful in adding to the youth board. It was discussed that the board itself could remain small, but that discussion points should get emailed out to parents so they might be able to have some active engagement in the development of their youth along with our efforts. Hoping to finalize a consistent board meeting time so others can participate as need be.

As for this years volunteers, a list of potentials was created as well as a few new members offering to help out as needed. This was great news as the youth can always use some more helpers, even if it is just being able to drive youth to events.

As for plans this year, Stephanie is really hoping to build off of the successful mission trip where she got to know many of the kids. She wants to establish a 4th Sunday of the month youth night at church (4-5:30pm) starting on Sept 25th, doing bible study, games and having pizza. Hoping the shift from doing things on Wednesday will be beneficial to the youth's schedules, as well as volunteers schedules. Along with Sunday nights, looking to build some events into the calendar for events external to the church, so we can get out in the community. Also expecting to throw a few service events into the mix to give the youth a chance to serve and grow with each other.

A few extra things as Stephanie is curious about upgrades to the youth room. Might want to reach out to the church if anyone may have an item like this they would like to donate.

Possible suggestions would include:

1. Larger TV mounted on the wall
2. Updated video game equipment
3. Addition of ping pong/pool/etc table

Finally, we need to get a planning meeting on the books that might work for students and parents so we can lock down some more event dates, service projects, and fundraisers.