

Ascension Lutheran Church – Council Meeting Minutes

Littleton, Colorado

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

In attendance:

Council Members: Tom Munson, Margo Pasha, Linda Achziger, *Pastor John Larson*, Anita Baresel, Terry Utecht, Tim McClaren, Ian Kirschner, Mike Zehnder, Scott Luethy,

Excused: Barbara Rutter, Joyce Lord, Christa Kirschner, Connie Fringer, Norm Fringer

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 6:35 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

Terry Utecht read the devotion, "Led by Love".

Approval of Previous Minutes

November regular meeting minutes were approved with one correction – under Columbarium, it should be inurnment, not internment.

President

- A committee is working on Music Services contracts

VP

- The constitution committee will be at the next council meeting. There have been major re-writes to the constitution. Members will be encouraged to read the proposed changes carefully. It will be presented at the January Voters' meeting.

Treasurers Report

- Attached
- November treasurers report passed unanimously.
- Discussion regarding Project Peter. At the January council meeting, we will determine the status. Should it be paid off with Prior Year Surplus funds?

Staff Reports

- **Pastor John Larson**
 - Annual Reports are due by year end.
 - Pastor moved that the five employees for EDP be given a Christmas bonus of \$100 each. Funds will come from Thrivent Choice. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Director of Music Ministry – Michael Zehnder**
 - Attached
- **Director of Education and Youth**
 - Education and Youth reports included with Parish Education and Youth - attached

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Board Report

- **Columbarium Memorial Garden**
 - No report
- **Community Outreach and Communication**
 - No report
- **Board of Elders**
 - Attached
- **Ladies Guild**
 - Attached
- **Parish Education**
 - Attached
- **Social ministry**
 - Next meeting 1/14/23
 - Distribution to Christmas families will be this Saturday (12/17). Contributions have been very generous.
 - There will be a blood drive on 1/8/23.
- **Stewardship**
 - Pledge cards still coming in
- **Trustees**
 - Attached
- **Youth**
 - Attached

New Business

- None

Announcements

- Next Voter's Meeting – January 22, 2023
- Next Council Meeting – January 10, 2022
- Board of the Month (January 2023) – TBD

Board of the Month duties includes:

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

Adjournment

- At 7:30 p.m. the meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

———— Respectfully Submitted by Margo Pasha

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HANDOUTS

Director of Music Ministries

LAST Report – December 2022, Michael J Zehnder

CHOIRS, BELLS, PRAISE BANDS

All groups are working hard on Christmas Music and we recently completed a beautiful Festival of Lessons and Carols service on December 11.

ORGAN REPAIR

On Thanksgiving there was an internal cipher on the Swell Division of the Organ. That means that every single stop on the Swell had a “stuck note” on a G#. Result was that about half the organ could be used until it was fixed. It took two trips by the organ maintenance folks to get this repaired. Turned out to be leather and wires that had become loose over time. Haven’t yet received a bill for this.

MUSIC MINISTRY CHANGES RECAP

As you know I’m retiring on December 31 and have agreed to serve in a part-time capacity. Specifically, I will be playing organ for about 38 weekends per year plus special services for a total of 90 traditional services per year, writing/planning worship on Sundays I play (Ann Kaneko will do the others and we have met regarding this), leading the Agape Praise Team (18 services per year) and preparing the contemporary bulletins for their Sundays, providing music for the majority of our online services and doing some music administration. Anita Baresel is taking the lead on finding substitute organists and at the moment the following have agreed to be involved: Anita Baresel, Diane Gaide, Linda Olsen and Nathan Eickmann. Stephanie Roettjer has agreed to lead the Youth Praise Team and prepare their bulletins and direct the Handbell choir. Ann Westra has agreed to direct the Ascension Chorale.

LATERAL FILE CABINET

We finally purchased a needed file cabinet for the choral music in the music room. Anita Baresel and Jim Wert are going to redistribute the music (thank you!).

PERSONAL NOTE

It has truly been a pleasure to serve as Director of Music of Music Ministries for approximately these past 6 years. I have greatly enjoyed the relationships with pastor, staff, leaders, congregational members and the various musicians in each group. It is with fear and trepidation that I venture to a less

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hectic work load but I am glad you are retaining me to continue in a few areas and I look forward to our continued relationship and making music at Ascension for the glory of God. Some of you may know that many years ago I served during my college years at Ascension as a part-time organist, probably around 1970-1971 or so. Somehow it seems fitting to conclude at Ascension what I started here so many years ago.

Education Report Dec.

Sunday school continues with good turnout. Christmas program preparations are on full swing.. We have 10 kids signed up for the handbell portion of the Christmas program. There will be a special rehearsal with a “Happy Birthday, Jesus” party afterwards this Saturday, December 17. The preschool kids are also invited to attend the party.

Preschool aide, Lindy, has officially ended her employment and her place has been temporarily filled. Also, there has been much discussion on how to proceed with the new Universal Preschool program the state is rolling out. It seems that it could be a big financial benefit to Ascension's preschool as well as fill it up to near or at capacity. It will, however, also increase work. There are discussions of how to use the extra money to possibly give raises to the teachers and Kelly, the director, to be comparable with pay other area schools are offering teachers. For now, we understand that things are changing constantly, but we will know more once the Universal Preschool program rolls out in February. Then we can come up with a more accurate budget and compensation scale for preschool workers.

This last Friday was the young adult Christmas party get together at the Lawrenz house. We also had a Young adult women's event on Saturday. It was a morning tea with a Christmas craft and cookie exchange. There were 12 young adult (and young at heart) ladies there in total.

Elders Report 12/13/2022

Scott Luethy

- 1: Candy for the Children Christmas Eve has been procured.
 - 2: The search for a Head Elders continues.
 3. John Klepetka has joined the Elders group
 4. Staff Christmas Bonuses are being discussed.
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Ascension Lutheran **Ladies Guild**

Report to Council – December 13, 2022

Ladies Guild is Hosted Orphan Grain Train on Thursday November 17, 2022, unfortunately we had snow that day, so we did not have the attendance we had hope for, but it was still a great meeting. We will probably have Orphan Grain Train back in late 2023.

We had a great Craft and Bake sale on Sunday November 20, 2022. We took in about \$2,000.00 which **does not** include the \$1,000 from Thrivent. We will be deciding on what missions we wish to support in January 2023.

Edna Achziger, Doris Rohde, and Charlotte Wilkinson put 30 bags together for the shut-ins. We have already received Thank you notes from some of the Shut-Ins. Any of the extra items that were not used for the Shut-In Bags were given to the Severe Weather Shelter Network.

We served dinner on the 7th of December - we served about 45 folks.

We are also preparing to host the Appreciation Breakfast on Friday December 16th, we have not done this since COVID so it will be nice to do it again.

Board of Trustees

Report to Council

December 13, 2022

- 1.0 Toilet in Boys Restroom: All the flush mechanisms in the Boy and Girls new bathroom now work. The only issue is that many of the young boys are not tall enough to trigger the urinals – so the staff needs to pay attention and flush them.
- 2.0 Leaking water heater: The water heater was repaired for the \$2458 price as approved and a small pressure tank was added to the new unit as required by code.
- 3.0 Ash trees in the front yard: The five trees were trimmed and all the dead material was removed.
- 4.0 Panic bar main parking lot entrance: Part of the panic bar mechanism on the east door failed recently and would not allow the bar to be properly opened or locked. Ken Carly Glass replaced the broken part and the door is working properly now.
- 5.0 Thank You: The Trustees thanks the Budget Committee for adding the requested \$15,000 to the budget for 2023 to set aside monies to resurface and stipe the parking lot sometime in 2024 or 2025.

----Ascension Trustees

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Youth Ministry Report – 12/12/22

For Nov/December, the youth did two servant events. The first was the parents morning out, as the youth babysat for parents on a Saturday, so parents could get some needed Christmas shopping done ahead of time. They youth also participated in the caroling to shut-ins just last weekend. The kids got to see the impact this makes on some of our members who miss church. It is sometimes hard to find a dry eye in the room as we pay a visit to these members. In the midst of crazy, this is a brief moment where we get to see what Christmas is all about and share Jesus' love.

After an afternoon round of caroling, the youth met, had dinner and had a Christmas part and gift exchange.

As we look ahead to the summer mission trip in Mescalero, New Mexico, the youth are doing their second fundraiser in January. This is the selling of the Super Bowl burritos. As good as last year's playoffs were, it only seemed fitting to do a few more weekends this year. So the plan is to sell these burritos in all the month of January.

Also as we look towards January, Stephanie will taking over youth band responsibilities as Mike steps away from full time duties. We will be looking to grow and develop children from all ages who want to learn musical talents and worship the Lord in the process.