

# **Ascension Lutheran Church – Council Meeting Minutes**

Littleton, Colorado

*Tuesday, January 10, 2023*

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## **In attendance:**

**Council Members:** Tim McClaren, Bob Hea, Margo Pasha, Pastor John Larson, Stephanie Roettjer, Joyce Lord, Jim Wert, Linda Achziger, Tom Munson, Anita Baresel, Terry Utecht, Ian Kirschner

**Excused:** Barbara Rutter, Christa Kirschner

**Guests:** Arvin Michael, Chuck Mielke

## **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**

Ian Kirschner read the devotion, "Imagine God Doing That for You".

## **Approval of Previous Minutes**

December regular meeting minutes were approved

## **Special Committee Report**

Arvin Michel gave a background and overview of the constitution re-write. There will be a special Council Meeting on February 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 to discuss the changes in detail.

## **New Business**

- Jim Wert was welcomed as Head Elder. His appointment will be approved at the 1/22 Voters' Meeting.
- Lenten dinner sign-up was passed around.

## **President**

- Tim asked that all Board Chairs let him know when they are meeting. Since he is an ex officio member, he would like to attend on occasion.
- Reminder – Council meetings are every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm
- Ian Kirschner was requested to post the Council meeting minutes on the website.
- Barbara Rutter was asked to make sure all minutes are archived and include the attachments.

## **VP**

- Bob will contact Jeanette Nelson to do an internal review of 2022 finances
- Bob and Margo will have a proposal at the next Council meeting regarding investing some of the funds into CD's.

## **Treasurers Report**

- Attached
- December Treasurer's report passed unanimously.
- Discussion regarding Project Peter. Pastor suggested we continue having our members contribute toward the loan balance. All agreed.

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- 2023 Budget (with changes for Music Personnel) was approved unanimously. It will be affirmed at the 1/22 Voters' Meeting.
- Enabling Resolution as unanimously approved with one correction – removal of Wednesday Night Live 017-302

## **Staff Reports**

- **Pastor John Larson**
  - The Columbarium Committee will consist of Dave & Becky Clausen, Sherry Hitztaler, Cindy Fowler and Roger & Judy Koester.
  - Annual report. Online worship in 2022 had over 8,000 viewers with 200 subscribers. There are 533 baptized members and 483 communicants.
- **Director of Education and Youth**
  - Report by Stephanie: Katie Bremer is the 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade class teacher, Planning a family game night for all ages, there is a push to boost advertising for Preschool, a Youth Winter retreat is coming up soon.

## **Board Report**

- **Columbarium Memorial Garden**
  - No report
- **Community Outreach and Communication**
  - Joyce reported that they are sorting through a lot of ideas and plan a meeting soon.
- **Board of Elders**
  - Attached
- **Ladies Guild**
  - Attached
- **Life Enrichment**
  - Tom has some possibilities for a group in June and asked for any input on other ideas.
- **Parish Education**
  - Attached
- **Social ministry**
  - Next meeting 1/14/23
  - There was a blood drive on 1/8/23.
- **Stewardship**
  - Linda reported the pledge cards still coming in
- **Trustees**
  - Attached
  - Utility costs are very high. We should all make an effort to conserve.
- **Youth**
  - Attached

## **Announcements**

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---

- Next Voter's Meeting – January 22, 2023 at noon.
- Next Council Meeting – February 14, 2022 at 6:30pm.
- Board of the Month (February 2023) – Community Outreach

## Board of the Month duties includes:

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

## Adjournment

- At 8:08 p.m. the meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

———— Respectfully Submitted by Margo Pasha

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## ATTACHMENTS

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### Enabling Resolution for January 10, 2023 Council Meeting For Disbursements for the Year 2023

Be it Resolved:

That the Treasurer is hereby authorized to pay recurring bills from the following budget line items without further approval from Council. Board Chairs may approve budget disbursements up to \$1,000.00. *If approved individual line items are less than \$10,000, but are combined and add up to more than \$10,000 on a single check, two signatures are not required.*

#### Stewardship

All Mission Partner payments  
As specified by the Elders Board  
109 Offering Envelopes

#### Elders

201 Pastor's Salary  
202 Pastor's Housing  
204 Pastor's Retirement Fund  
205 Pastor's Disability Plan  
207 Pastor's Accident Plan  
208 Pastor's Mileage Reimbursement  
209 DCE Salary  
210 DCE FICA  
211 DCE Health Insurance  
212 DCE Retirement Plan

#### Trustees

305 & 306 Copier Lease & Maintenance\*  
308 Water\*  
311 Insurance\*  
312 Elevator Maintenance  
321 Organ Refurbishment Fund  
323 Renovation Interest Payments  
325 Future Capital Needs  
326 Renovation Principal Payments  
329 Utilities Gas \*  
330 Utilities Electricity\*  
331 Janitorial Services\*

#### EDP (With Director's Approval)

901 Teachers' Salaries  
902 Director's Salary

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213 DCE Disability & Acc. Inc.  
215 Admin Assistant (AA) Salary  
216 AA FICA  
217 AA Retirement Fund  
218 AA Health Insurance  
219 AA Disability & Acc. Ins.  
222 Music Ministry  
233 Coordinator of Young Adults Salary  
234 Coordinator of Young Adults FICA  
239 FAMLI CO Medical Leave

903 Teacher's Aid Salaries  
908 Social Security Taxes

## **Dedicated**

17-302 Wed Night Live Meal Expenses  
17-304 Flower Fund  
17-350 Project Peter (also under Trustees)  
... plus, All Pass-Through funds for their designated purposes

## **Taxes**

12-101 Federal Income Tax Withheld  
12-102 FICA – Employee Contribution  
12-103 FICA – Church Contribution  
12-104 State Income Tax Withheld

*\*Line items may be over \$1,000, but require a  
Check Request from the Trustee's Board Chair*

Be it further resolved that: Durwin Schmitt, be approved to act as Assistant Treasurer with full authority to sign checks that fulfill the above condition in the Treasurer's absence.

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## **Elders report for 1/10/2023 Church Council Meeting**

1. We welcomed John Klepetka as our newest elder.
2. Contracts for the various music positions have been signed.
3. We're thankful for Scott Luethy's service with the elders.

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## **Ascension Lutheran Ladies Guild**

Report to Council – January 10, 2023

We had a great Craft and Bake sale on Sunday November 20, 2022. We took in over \$3,300 which **does** include the \$1,000 from Thrivent, about \$1,000 less than last year, but still a very nice amount. We will be deciding on what missions we wish to support on Thursday January 12, 2023 during our Brown Bag and Bible Study.

Ladies Guild will be hosting the Voter's meeting at on January 22, 2023.

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## **Board of Trustees**

### **Report to Council**

**January 10, 2023**

- 1.0 Alarm System: One of the smoke sensors in the Alarm System is a problem and gave us a false reading in the West Wing that activated the alarm. Denver Electric repaired this problem. The System has now passed the warranty date for all systems in the West Wing. Denver Electric is now proposing a maintenance contract for the entire system. We currently pay ADT Commercial to monitor the system and to conduct the Annual inspection. We will keep the Council informed concerning this contract proposal.
  - 2.0 Ice Conditions at the Main Parking Lot entrance: This year has produced more snow and ice than previous years. We have also modified our custodial plan. The result is some difficulty removing ice on the driveway and crosswalk. The Trustees need feedback concerning the Council's opinion and possible suggestions concerning this issue.
  - 3.0 Lights over the Landing leading to the Narthex: The lights over this landing are in some disrepair. Three of the fixtures are not working. We are talking to Change Electric about rewiring this fixture with LED fixtures.
  - 4.0 Emergency/ night Light in Office: The emergency/ night light in the office is not working. We will have an electrician look at it.
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## **Youth Ministry Report – 1/10/23**

In the past month, the youth were part of the Christmas program and we had some great kids step up. I want to thank the Youth for all their hard work in making the Christmas program a success.

Coming up for youth, they are going on their winter retreat to a mountain cabin. This will happen after service on this Sunday. These trips are great bonding experiences can really encourage fellowship among the youth as they get in the outdoors (and usually can't get on their phones 😊 )

Youth are also in the process of trying to recruit more individuals for the youth band. We are getting some youth from Lutheran High to come fill as subs as well (drums this weekend!).

Also coming up will be the youth super bowl party in February.