

# Ascension Lutheran Church – Council Meeting Minutes

Littleton, Colorado

Tuesday, March 14, 2023

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## In attendance:

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

**Excused:** Ian Kirschner, Joyce Lord,

**Guest:** Ed Geisler, Arvin Michel

## Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. in room 106 at Ascension Lutheran Church (ALC) by the President.

## Opening Prayer:

The *Pastor John Larson* offered an opening prayer.

## Opening Devotion

Jim Wert read the devotion, "Charcoal Fire".

## Approval of Previous Minutes

February 14, 2023 Council meeting minutes were approved.

## Unfinished Business

- Constitution & Bylaws Update offered by Arvin and Ed
  - Goal: Endorsement by Council and put to a vote so it can be put on the April 23<sup>rd</sup> Voter's Assembly agenda
  - Changes were presented and found in Ascension Lutheran Church Constitution and Bylaws – Draft
  - Due to choir members having to leave and the loss of a quorum, the vote on the Constitution will be postponed until March 21, 2023 at 6:30 pm.

*Member who left the meeting to attend Choir practice at 7:10pm: Tom Munson, Jim Wert, Stephanie Roettjer, Anita Baresel. As the Council meeting did not have a quorum at that point, no official action could be conducted.*

## Staff Reports

- Director of Education and Youth
  - None
- Pastor
  - None

## Officer Reports

### President

- President will be Absent from April 23<sup>rd</sup> Voter's meeting, Bob Hea has agreed to lead the meeting.

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## **VP**

- The Finance Board is pleased to report that Dick and Joann Castleman agreed to be our independent reps for the annual financial review. The review is well underway and will be finalized by the end of March as per Synod guidelines. To date, no issues have been uncovered.
- For a limited time, LCEF is offering 4% fixed-rate, 12-month term note for both individual members and congregations (see below). We should consider converting a portion of our funds on deposit at LCEF into this opportunity.
  - Discussed putting \$200,000 in this account and it will be voted on at the special council meeting on March 23, 2023.

## **Treasurers Report**

- Attached
- Approval of the February Treasurer's report on hold until special Council meeting on (3/23/23)

## **Board Report**

- **Elders**
  - None
- **Life Enrichment**
  - Attached
- **Social ministry**
  - None
- **Columbarium Memorial Garden (CMG)**
  - The CMG committee has met and David Clausman will be the point person
  - Norm and Connie will help with the first and possibly second internment, as needed.
- **Community Outreach and Communication**
  - None
- **Ladies' Guild**
  - Attached
- **Parish Education**
  - Upcoming in Education this month is a family Bunco night. That will be this Friday (3/17/23) starting at 6:30 pm. We are also ramping up for the Easter egg hunt. We are asking for prefilled eggs this year. On Palm Sunday, the Sunday school children will be waving ribbons for both services. We are also in the season of preparing for VBS, which will be the first full week in June. We are trying to pull together our pool of volunteers.
  - In preschool, Kelly has hired another teacher.
  - The young adult bible study continues the second Friday of each month with good turnout.
- **Stewardship**
  - No report

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- **Trustees**
  - Attached
  - Speaking from prior discussions during the west wing remodel, Bob Hea suggested that the Board talk to the architect about turning the bell tower into an “art piece” rather than spending the money to repair it.
  - Will vote on lawn care at special Council meeting (3/23/2023)
- **Youth**
  - Parent meeting on March 19 and then go to Slick City

## **New Business**

- None

## **Announcements**

- Next Voter’s Meeting – April 23, 2023
- Next Council Meeting – April 11, 2023
- Next special Council Meeting – March 21, 2023
- Board of the Month (April 2023) – Ladies Guild

Board of the Month duties includes:

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

## **Adjournment**

- At 7:47 p.m. the meeting was adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer

——— Respectfully Submitted by Barbara Rutter, Secretary

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# **Handouts**

## **Education Report March**

Upcoming in Education this month is a family Bunco night. That will be this Friday starting at 6:30 pm. We are also ramping up for the Easter egg hunt. We are asking for prefilled eggs this year. On Palm Sunday, the Sunday school children will be waving ribbons for both services. We are also in the season of preparing for VBS, which will be the first full week in June. We are trying to pull together our pool of volunteers.

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## **ELDERS**

The Elders have had a quiet month. I am not aware of anything to report to council this month.

The Elders will be serving dinner at 5:30pm this Wednesday. We will be serving 2 different soups as well as some homemade pork green chile.

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Ascension Lutheran Ladies Guild

Report to Council – March 14, 2023

Ladies Guild is hosted Ash Wednesday dinner – we served homemade Vegetable Beef Soup, homemade rolls, Tomato soup, vegetable tray and dessert. We were hoping to serve at least 70 to 80 folks, but the weather changed things – we only served about 40 to 45 folks. Leftovers were given to some of the families that attended with the rest going to the SWSN.

The Ladies Guild Board discussed the Voter's meeting lunches that have been served these past few years. We know that the original intent of serving the lunches was to get the congregation to attend the Voter's meetings – however these last few years it has not been working. What would the Council think of just serving some type of pastry/cookies and coffee instead of sandwiches? We know the Foundation has been supplementing the cost of the lunches, but it would save the Foundation some funds.

BINGO for MITES will be held on Saturday March 18, 2023, at 1:00 pm. Pastor John will be the caller for BINGO for MITES.

We have been asked to host the South-Central Zone Fall Rally in September or October. Since it has been several years since we have hosted the South-Central Zone Fall Rally, we told the Zone that yes we will host the Zone Fall Rally. At this time, we do not have a date for the Fall Rally.

Future Dates:

Thursday May 25, 2023 @ 6:00 pm – Salad Supper

Sunday June 4, 2023 – Hosting Coffee Under the Trees

Saturday June 24, 2023 – Planning Day

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## Life Enrichment

Council Report

March 14, 2023

- First event scheduled for June 3rd at 7pm: **Forté Handbell Quartet** (<https://fortehandbells.org/>). Will be funded entirely by a freewill offering and merchandise sales (CDs, etc.).
  - I have made initial contact with the **Queen City Jazz Band** (<https://www.queencityjazzband.com/>). We are targeting a performance during the service on New Year's Eve. There will be one service that day (the Sunday following Christmas) at 10am. The cost would be \$1200, which exceeds the amount available in our dedicated account, so the board will solicit matching funds from the Foundation.
  - The board will market its events via email to the membership and area churches, Nextdoor, YourHub (Denver Post), and the Ascension website and social media accounts. The board is researching the possibility of an outdoor banner facing Windermere.
  - I am actively soliciting suggestions for future performances, volunteers to provide refreshments, and other volunteers to help. Call me at 720-341-7119 or email me at [tom@munson.org](mailto:tom@munson.org).
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Board of Trustees

Report to Council

March 14, 2023

- 1.0 Children's Restroom: The spring loaded handle on one of the sinks was not shutting off. Jim Mullane was able to repair the problem.
- 2.0 Folding wall – Fellowship Hall: The handle on the west side of the folding wall came loose. We were able to find someone to fix it. It required disassembly of parts of the wall and some expertise in removing a broken bolt and replacing it so the handle could be affixed.
- 3.0 Alarm System: We are still having problems with some of the sensors sending false alerts to the system. Denver Electric is working on the issue.

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- 4.0 Boy Scout Trailer: The scouts are trying to recruit new members. During the Covid Pandemic three local Cub Scout Packs folded. These local packs were the source of many of the recruits for Troop 361. So, Troop 361 has decorated their trailer with decals advertising their troop. They have asked to move their Trailer to the northeast corner of the parking lot (Near the 10' X 12' shed) so traffic on Windermere can see their new decals. We have granted their request with the provision that they move the trailer before a snowstorm so the snow can be piled there when the parking lot is plowed and allow us adequate access to the shed.
- 5.0 Trustees Projects: The Trustees are planning on beginning to work on the Bell Tower and landscaping the area just south of the Youth Room. The landscaping cost will be minimal but the Bell Tower will be expensive. The Trustees have not completed an overall plan but we hope to soon. The main issues with the Bell Tower are:
1. The drainage system does not work.
  2. The top is very corroded.
  3. The sides need repair.
  4. Various other parts need both repair and paint.
- 6.0 Motion to approve the contract to Greenleaf Lawns for \$1,386.00.
- This is for fertilization and aeration for 2023.

Ascension Trustees

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## VP Report

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