

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Church Council Monthly Meeting Minutes Meeting Date: April 11, 2023

Opening:

- **Call to order:** A regular meeting of the Ascension Lutheran Church Council was held at the church on 04/11/2023. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m., President Tim McClaren presiding.
- **Members in attendance:** Tim McClaren, Bob Hea, Margo Pasha, Pastor Larson, Terry Utecht, Jim Wert, Tom Munson, Anita Baresel, Ian Kirschner, Stephanie Roettjer.
- **Members not in attendance:** Barbara Rutter, Christa Kirschner, David Clausen, Joyce Lord
- **Guests:** Arvin Michel.
- **Opening Prayer** - Pastor Larson opened the meeting with a prayer.
- **Opening Devotion** - Linda Achziger, representing the Ladies Guild, shared an opening devotional.
- **Approval of minutes:** The minutes of the March 14th and 21st Council meetings were approved as distributed.

Unfinished Business: Constitution & Bylaws (C&B) Revisions - Arvin Michel

- Arvin answered questions regarding the presentation of the C&B revisions to the congregation at the upcoming Voter's Meeting. In this first of two Voter's meetings required to approve the revisions, Arvin will discuss the recommended changes and entertain questions. The goal will be to make the content clear to the congregation and achieve understanding. Any proposed amendments will be deferred to the second meeting.
- For the second meeting, amendments must be submitted in writing beforehand. A common template for amendments was recommended with an early submittal so they could be included in the presentation.
- June 11th at 11:00 a.m. was picked for the likely second Voter's meeting.
- If the newly revised C&B pass at the second meeting, with or without amendments, they will be sent to District for review. If the District Board of Directors approve the new documents, a third meeting will be required to select an effective date.

Staff Reports:

- **Director of Education & Youth** – Stephanie Roettjer
 - See attached Education Report below.
 - It was pointed out that 1st Presbyterian will have VBS the same week as we will and their VBS will be free.
 - Preschool has 34 children signed up for next school year
- **Pastor's Report** – Pastor Larson

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- Gifts for Pre-school Teachers – Pastor asked for \$1000 of Thrivent dollars for Teacher bonuses. We have \$7400 available. Kelly will add additional funds. Pastor moved to approve. Linda seconded. **Motion passed.**

Officers Reports:

- **President** – Tim McClaren
 - Discussed upcoming Voter’s Meeting Agenda
 - LCMS Elections (June) – No bios yet. Will include an update in the Voter’s Meeting agenda and seek comments from the congregation.
 - Request for funds for Siberia Seminary – We believe we were covered by donations from the Foundation and the Board of Elders.
 - Tim will start a schedule for “Coffee Under the Trees”. The Ladies Guild will serve the first Sunday.
- **Vice-President** – Bob Hea had nothing new to report.
- **Treasurer** – Margo Pasha shared the latest income statement and balance sheet prior to the meeting. Key items include:
 - March receipts were \$11,700 less than budgeted.
 - YTD receipts are \$2100 more than budgeted.
 - YTD expenses are \$14,980 less than budgeted.
 - EDP’s March income exceeded expenses by \$536 (\$2,834 YTD).
 - The Loan balance was \$35,093 on 3/31/23 but has been lowered to \$15,093 after receiving significant Easter donations.
 - Discussed the Lemke Fund.
 - Bob made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s report, it was seconded. **Motion carried.**

Board Reports:

- **Elders** – Jim Wert – See report below. The possibility of extending the single Sunday service concept through September generated a significant number of questions. Pastor will seek more input from the congregation at the upcoming Voter’s Meeting.
- **Live Enrichment** – Tom Munson – No changes to last month’s report.
- **Social Ministry** – Anita Baresel – Committee meeting on May 13th.
- **Columbarium** – David Clausen – David is the new point person for the Columbarium Committee.
- **Community Outreach** – Joyce Lord – No report.
- **Ladies Guild** – Linda Achziger – See report below.
- **Parish Education** – Christa Kirschner – See report below.
- **Stewardship** – Linda Achziger – Nothing new to report.
- **Trustees** – Terry Utecht/Chuck Mielke – See report below.
- **Youth** – Ian Kirschner – See report below.

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Announcements:

- Next Council Meeting – May 9, 2023
- Next Voter’s Meeting – April 23, 2023
- Board of the Month for May 2023 – Life Enrichment
 - Devotions for Council Meeting
 - Coffee Cleanup on Sundays
 - Article for “Happenings Newsletter”

Closing: The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. followed by the Lord’s Prayer.

Robert G. Hea – VP

DRAFT
Date of Approval

cc: Pastor John Larson
President: Tim McClaren

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Elders report for 4/11/2023 Church Council Meeting

1. Conducted acolyte training on March 26th.
2. The Elders are considering the possibility of having a single service on Sundays at 9am beginning in September. This would just be a continuation of the summer schedule. *(The goal is to grow attendance.)*

Jim Wert

Board of Trustees Report to Council – 4/11/23

- 1.0 Ash Trees: The Ash trees will be treated for the Emerald Ash Borer with in a week. This will be the fourth year we have treated the trees. We had the trees injected the first two years and starting last year we started a “drench” treatment that is much less costly and reported to be just as effective.
- 2.0 Bell Tower: Since the remaining debt for the West Wing is about retired the Trustees are ready to explore options for repairing the Bell Tower.
- 3.0 Elevator: The elevator failed the State inspection a couple weeks ago but the issues have been addressed. One of the issues was the dedicated phone line and the failure in the line was due to a bad connection at the main CenturyLink Phone Box on Caley.

Ascension Trustees

Youth Ministry Report – 4/11/23

Biggest news to report for the youth this month is the successful Easter Breakfast. The youth board would definitely love feedback on how it went, what went well and what the congregation might like to see in the future. In total, we had 9 youth arrive, a few parents, as well as other Ascension volunteers to help with the endeavor. And a huge thank you to Stephanie for pulling the whole thing off. There were an estimated 250+ people who attended and we were able to raise \$1,712. With a matching donation from the Foundation, the youth will add \$3,424 for their mission trip this summer. So THANK YOU to all who helped and financially contributed to this event.

In other news, still working to get more youth added to the acolyte schedule.

Training session is Sunday, April 16th!

The next event will be SNL on April 30th.

Ian Kirschner

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Education Report – 4/11/23

The Easter Egg Hunt went well on Saturday with close to 100 people in attendance (40 families). Those in attendance were a combination of neighborhood, preschool, and church member families. It was a great time and a lot of fun!

VBS registration has opened with the link up and running. This is being advertised to church and preschool families now with a banner being hung outside to advertise to the community soon. We're also putting an announcement about it on various community social media sites. A volunteer meeting will be held on April 26 at 6:30 pm.

Young adult Sunday Bible Study will resume this weekend as usual at 9:15 am (did not have Bible study on Easter Sunday). We will be meeting for our monthly bible study this Friday at 6:30 pm at the Lawrenz house.

Christa Kirschner

Ascension Lutheran Ladies Guild – 4/11/23

BINGO for MITES was held on Saturday March 18, 2023, at 1:00 pm, Pastor John as our guest caller for BINGO for MITES. We raised \$215 for MITES (25% will go to National and 75% will remain here in the Rocky Mountain District).

We are currently working on a guest speaker, from Project Angel Heart, for our Salad Supper. We will be decorating bags that Project Angel Heart uses for distribution of specially prepared meals, and medicine. This will be fun for all of us to decorate the bags.

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

Linda Achziger