

# Ascension Lutheran Church – Council Meeting Minutes

Littleton, Colorado

Tuesday, June 13, 2023

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## In attendance:

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

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

## Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 6:31 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.

## Approval of Previous Minutes

May 9 council meeting minutes were approved.

## Staff Reports

- Stephanie Director of Education and Youth
  - 68 children registered online for VBS (2/3 nonmembers)
  - Possibly have a reunion towards end of August
  - 13 youth going on the trip
  - Hockey table is fixed up and running in youth room. No worries of legs breaking on us.
  - The youth are going on their mission trip soon. 10 youth are scheduled to go with Stephanie.
  - After some discussions with youth struggling to read their bible, the youth board will be providing some Filament bibles to the youth. They are written in the NLT translation. Buying the Filament bibles also comes with an interactive phone app, that will allow youth to scan their page on the bible, and bring up helpful notes on individual verses and will also provide links to Bible videos on the text when available. They will be receiving these prior to leaving on their trip.
  - Multiple youth were around during the week of VBS to help lead crews and teach the young children about Shining Jesus' light. Thank you, youth!

Education written report from Christa:

- 1. VBS last week was a lot of fun and a great success. We had over 60 kids registered. The theme was "Stellar: Shine Jesus' Light." The registrants included many kids who are church families and preschool families as well as a few from the community. After Friday's VBS, there was a lunch and carnival for the families to participate in. We had a great time!

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- 2. The preschool continues to be matched with more kids through the Universal Preschool program.
  - 3. We postponed the young adult bible study from last Friday to this upcoming Friday, June 16. This was done because of the craziness that is VBS week. We look forward to meeting again at the Lawrenz house later this week.
- Pastor
  - Commend Stephanie and leaders on a successful VBS
  - This past Saturday there was a discussion with the Music Ministry group on how to improve
    - Hire a keyboard player for the youth from instrumentalist line item
  - Adult instruction class in the plans for the fall
  - Mike Zender will cover for Pastor when he goes on the Youth trip
  - Grief Share is in the works (2 standalone sessions surviving loss of spouse and surviving the holidays) 13 week course may start around February 2024

## **Officer Reports**

### **President**

- Obligation to vote for convention
- Constitution and bylaws were approved with minor amendments to be sent to district
- Norm has been training Dean Beckert

### **VP**

- No report

### **Treasurers Report**

- Attached
- Mortgage will be paid by the end of December with the monthly payments
- Motion: Accept the treasures report as presented. Passed unanimously

### **Board Report**

- **Columbarium Memorial Garden**
  - None
- **Community Outreach and Communication**
  - None
- **Elders**
  - Welcomed Bob Olson as our 7<sup>th</sup> Elder
  - Four Elders and Pastor Larson attended an excellent Elder workshop on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Broomfield. President Maxwell from the Rocky Mountain District was the facilitator/speaker.

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- A single question survey about combining the 8am and 10:30am services will be available to the congregation later this week. It will be available online and via paper. We will accept responses through July 8/9, 2023.
- Pastor Larson's 40<sup>th</sup> year in the ministry is June 19<sup>th</sup>. The Elders will recognize this at the end of the services on June 17<sup>th</sup> and June 18<sup>th</sup>. We will be planning to formally celebrate this in September.
- **Ladies Guild**
  - Attached
- **Life Enrichment**
  - Attached
- **Parish Education**
  - See above under Stephanie's report
- **Social ministry**
  - Attached
- **Stewardship**
  - No report
- **Trustees**
  - Attached
  - Motion: To approve up to \$1050 for new sprinkler heads and relocation of some of the heads.
    - Passed
- **Youth**
  - Attached

## **New Business**

- None

## **Announcements**

- Next Voter's Meeting – September 24, 2023
- Next Council Meeting – July 11, 2023
- Board of the Month (June 2023) – Social Ministry

### Board of the Month duties includes:

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

## **Adjournment**

- At 7:28 p.m. the meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

———— Respectfully Submitted by Barbara Rutter, Secretary

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## **Board Report Attachments**

### **Elders report for 6/13/2023 Church Council Meeting**

#### **Life Enrichment**

Council Report June 13, 2023

The Forté Handbell Quartet (<https://fortehandbells.org/>) performed at Ascension on June 3rd to rave reviews. 95 people attended. The group felt that the freewill offering and merchandise sales were successful. If you missed the show, you can still catch them at Parker UMC on June 18. The next event will occur in August when His Little Feet (<https://hislittlefeet.org>) visits Ascension in August to perform in the Saturday and Sunday services. Exact date TBD. They have requested a love offering during the service, a hot lunch for 37 people, 7 host families for 2 nights (Friday and Saturday) and a \$500 tour fee. I intend to ask the Foundation to help offset the fee. The Queen City Jazz Band (<https://www.queencityjazzband.com/>) will perform as part of our Sunday worship service on New Year's Eve. There will be one service that day at 10am. The cost will be \$1200, which exceeds the amount available in our dedicated account. I will solicit matching funds from the Foundation. I am actively seeking 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)

## **Board of Trustees**

Report to Council

June 13, 2023

1.0 Gutters: During the recent heavy rain storms the gutters above Pastor's Office ran over and some of the water ran into the north interior drywall in his office and did some damage. Since that time, all the gutters have been cleaned. The rain storm last week convinced us that everything is functioning correctly and we have decided to repair the damage.

2.0 Wall heaters: There are two wall heaters that are not responding to the thermostats that should control them and as a result the heaters never shut off. After the HVAC Technician from Pasterkamp looked at both systems, he said that the thermostats were controlling the valves but he needed the heat turned on to see if the valve was working properly. So, we need to wait until fall to fix the systems. These valves were not part of the West Wing Remodel.

3.0 Sprinklers: There are still two areas that need professional help. We need approval to pay for the replacement of sprinkler heads and recondition the some of the system on the south side of the building. Motion: To approve up to \$1050 for new sprinkler heads and relocation of some of the heads. The second area is the large fenced area to the west. This area has multiple problems and we need to do more planning before deciding what to do.

4.0 Bell Tower: The Bell Tower Committee has tested the paint on the Tower

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and determined - Yes, it is lead paint. But, since the Tower is a detached structure with no habitation we do have some options. Also, the Committee has contacted an Architect for advice on repairing the roof and other matters and will report the findings and costs.

5.0 Sanctuary Roof: The roof in the sanctuary is still leaking - a little. The leak keeps moving to a new location and does not occur during every rain storm. So, we will continue to monitor the 20+ year old roof situation.

6.0 Tech Committee: Along with moving all our records into the “Cloud” and eliminating a need for our own server, the Tech Committee has establishment a system that will allow all Ascension Staff to soon have an email address that is similar and tied to Ascension and sent to our established Website, Ascension.org. These events have been very time consuming but represent a significant improvement.

## **Youth report**

1. Hockey table is fixed up and running in youth room. No worries of legs breaking on us.
2. The youth are going on their mission trip soon. 10 youth are scheduled to go with Stephanie.
3. After some discussions with youth struggling to read their bible, the youth board will be providing some Filament bibles to the youth. They are written in the NLT translation. Buying the Filament bibles also comes with an interactive phone app, that will allow youth to scan their page on the bible, and bring up helpful notes on individual verses and will also provide links to Bible videos on the text when available. They will be receiving these prior to leaving on their trip.
4. Multiple youth were around during the week of VBS to help lead crews and teach the young children about Shining Jesus' light. Thank you, youth!

Thanks,  
Ian Kirschner

## **Social Ministry**

**May 13, 2023**

Attended by Pastor John, Jude Donovan, Lori Rolling, Sherry Hitztaler, Dennis and Joyce Lord, Anita Baresel

Excused: Kathleen Wucherpfennig, Dawn Munson, Tom Munson

Sherry presented a national Grief Share video that showed people how to best support others who have suffered losses. The session “Surviving the Death of a Spouse” will be on September 16th, and “Surviving the Holidays” will be November 4th, and a 13 week course “From Mourning to Joy” begins in February 2024. She hopes that a number of empathetic individuals will join this effort so we have additional means to minister to those who are grieving. ( In later information, Sherry and Pastor are the current representatives, and Linda Olsen has agreed to co-chair with Sherry.) Stephen ministry does currently send out booklets that assist those who are grieving. Mary Hert has grief books in church library available for check out.

Lorraine indicated that Stephen Mistry continues with 4 leaders and 2 care receivers.

Following deaths, she sends out booklets two weeks following the loss, and again in six

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weeks.

Jude shared that 500 copies of the Gospel of John that has been made available to distribute to new federally incarcerated people and to Bob Estes and David Zeller who then distribute the Prison Bible as well. They are also available to Douglas County jail chaplains. (There were six Faith stories from prisoners in this year's Faith booklet.) Jude also indicated that a request for Donations was contributed to the Happenings. Lutherans for Life will have a National March for Life at the state capitol on April 4, 2024. Attendees can see their senators and representatives during their Thursday legislative session. Colorado has codified the right to abortion for all under all circumstances, within the state constitution, and has passed additional pro-abortion protocols. She also has ordered special bulletin inserts for Mother's Day, Father's Day. Approximately 200 Faith Books, 11th edition, were distributed during Holy and Week and were well received. During the last week of September, Angel Tree donations will once again be open for families of prisoners to grant Christmas gifts.

Pastor John described further donations that were organized to help with various outside ministries: toiletries for Haitian orphanage through May 22nd. Our current website has been revised through the assistance of Dawn Munson and Kathleen Wucherpfennig.

Dennis said that Jenna Lorenz and Kelly Lafferty have been collaborating to reach out to families of preschoolers. MOPS and VBS are some of the means of connection....

Lori Rolling, our special guest, spoke of how she and Marilyn Loptien coordinate with one another to provide meals to new members, members with new babies, and those recovering from hospital visits. A question arose about a possible Parish Nurse program, and Pastor and others expressed that there would need to be some legal aspects addressed prior to any such program.

Pastor John reminded us that our next meeting should be scheduled for Saturday, August 12th @ 9:30AM. The meeting was closed with the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Baresel

## **Ascension Lutheran Ladies Guild**

Report to Council – June 13, 2023

On Thursday May 25, 2023 @ 6:00 pm we had our last General meeting of the year. We didn't have as many folks attend that we had hoped, but it was a great evening.

We hosted Coffee in the Narthex since it was a very rainy Sunday, we still had a great turnout.

Saturday June 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am we are having our Planning Day, we will be planning out our dates for the next year. One item we will be working on is the Fall Rally that we will be hosting on Saturday September 30, 2023.

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